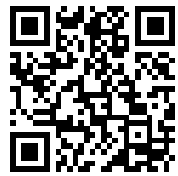
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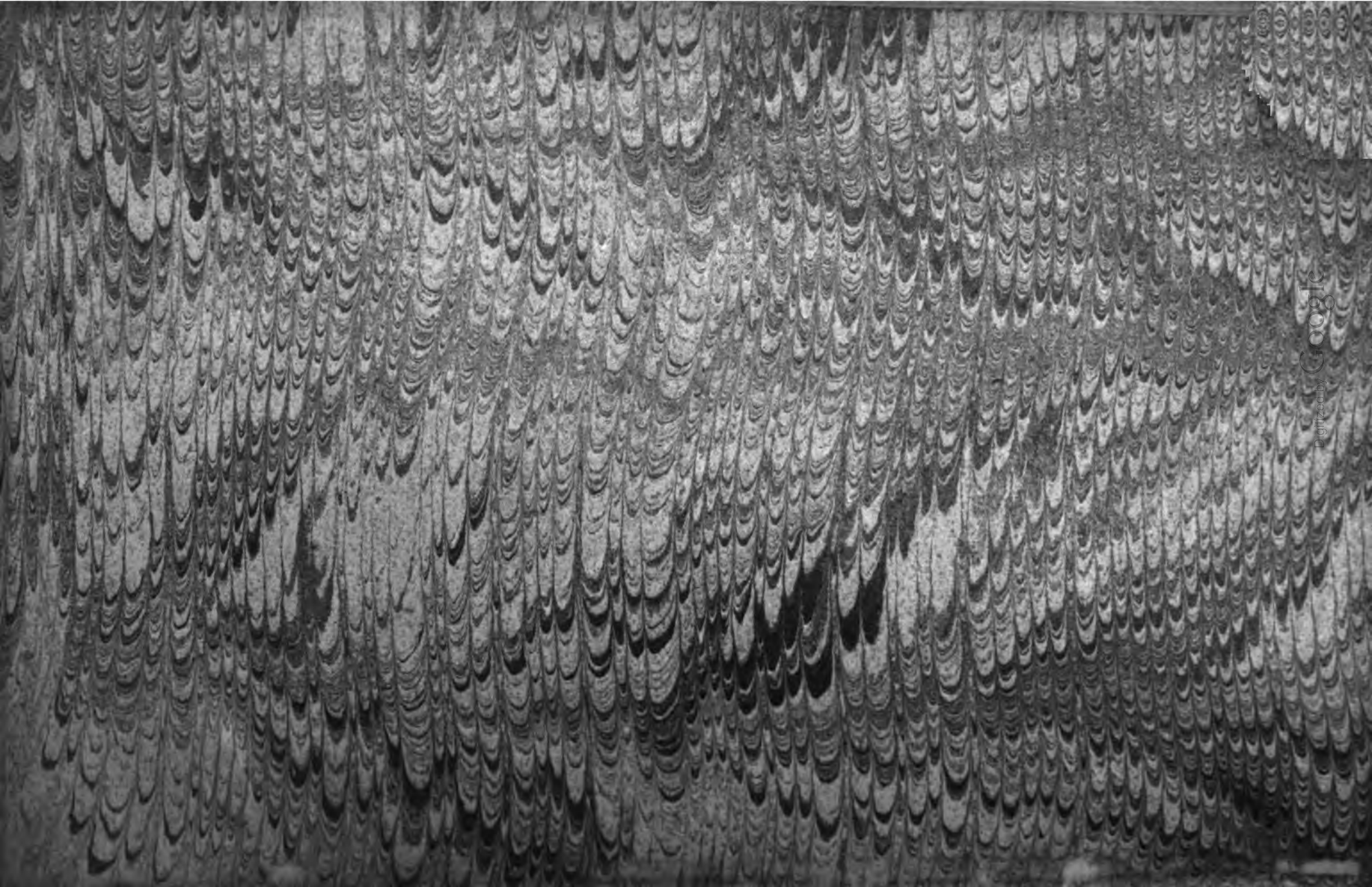
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THE REDEEMER.

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Prince Hohenlohe's Prayer Book;

OR,

THE CHRISTIAN

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT OF THE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

BY

THE REVEREND PRINCE

ALEXANDER OF HOHENLOHE,

CATHOLIC PRIEST,

KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF SAINT JOHN,

AND SPIRITUAL COUNSELLOR OF THE EPISCOPAL

GENERAL-VICARIAT OF BAMBERG.

Translated from the German.

FOURTH EDITION,

Revised and Corrected, with considerable Additions.

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APPROBATION.

THE Prayer-book, drawn up under the title of The Christian Praying in the Spirit of the Catholic Church, *contains nothing contrary to Catholic Faith and Morality, but is calculated to excite pious affections and religious sentiments, receives hereby the approbation of the Episcopal General Vicariat.*

General Vicariat of the See of Bamberg.

Baron von Gross, President.
F. A. Frey, Secretary.

Bamberg, 12th November, 1818.

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THE

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

I HAVE ventured to compose a Prayer-book —may our good God in his love give a blessing to my feeble undertaking!—May we gladly and often pray, and with heartfelt joy lift up our eyes and hands, our heart and understanding to God! How gladly should we converse with God, and fall prostrate in the dust before his infinite holiness! Sometimes in our prayers, joyfully embrace very affectionately his fatherly grace and mercy, and sometimes implore his almighty goodness for a blessing on ourselves and others. Pour out our hearts before God, as children before their father, and invite all heaven and earth to praise his magnificence! Penetrated also with a deep sense of his justice, tremble with filial fear, and be convinced in our hearts, that He is the most high and holy Being, before whom the Angels and the Cherubims are as nothing! How ought we to re-

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flect, when we appear before him, that God is a father of mercy, a helper in time of need, a giver of all good gifts, a rewarder of the good, and a punisher of the wicked! But that many of us are not penetrated with these sentiments, every one's experience too unhappily teaches.—How often are our prayers cold and forced, spiritless, full of distractions, and mere service of the lips; because—in many of us the Faith in HIM, in whom, before whom, and to whom we pray, is feeble and impotent. O may the pious soul who makes use of this book, be excited to prayer by a true, holy, life-giving Faith; then will the praise of our Lord be proclaimed in a worthy manner, and we shall pray in the Spirit of the Catholic Church; and though we are still pilgrims on this perishable earth, we shall unite with the holy and perfect company in heaven, in one common praise to God and the Lamb. We will follow him with all eagerness, and having once learned the true art of praying well, we shall have learned too, according to the saying of St. Augustin, the true art of living well—and he who knows how to live well, will be full of consolation in death.

HOHENLOHE.

All Saint's day, 1818.

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THE CHRISTIAN
PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT OF THE
Catholic Church.

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS.

A MORNING PRAYER.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Blessed be the Holy and undivided Trinity, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

O GOD! I love thee with my whole soul—I love thee with all my strength above all things! I tell it thee with every pulsation of my heart; this is my first exclamation when I awake, and penetrated with this holy love, I cry out to thee, O my Lord and my God!—Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! in whom we live, move, and exist, receive the prayer of thy devoted creature. I thank thee, O ineffable Being, eternal God, in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! for having in thy fatherly goodness granted me this day, to go forth to my daily labours with new strength, and to use it for thy greater honour, and the salvation of my immortal soul. Grant me this day, and always, thy holy Grace; that I may neither think, speak, or undertake any thing, but for thy praise and glory. Father, to thee I submit

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myself entirely, my free will, and all my actions; I devote them to thee in thy presence; each new day that thou art pleased to afford me, shall bring me nearer to thee, and to the end of my creation, I will ever become better, more perfect, and more pious; for this is my most holy will, and my exalted vocation as a man and a Christian. O that my spirit may more and more free itself from the bands which my earthly nature fastens upon me! May I become more and more free and independant of all those weaknesses and evil habits which so impede me in the practice of my duties, and hinder the growth of virtue in my soul. O divine Spirit! rule thou my heart, that I may be enabled to govern my desires and passions, and that my heart may remain pure to possess and enjoy thee only, most pure and holy God!—Let the warning and salutary thought of thy omnipresence and omniscience accompany me this day in all things. I will earnestly endeavour not only to appear good, but to be good in reality; for thou hatest hypocrisy, and only truth and righteousness are pleasing in thy sight. All this I pray for in the name of thy only-begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is blessed for ever!

Pater, &c. Ave, &c. Credo, &c. Gloria, &c.

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O Lord, heavenly Father, almighty and eternal God! send down thy holy Angel from Heaven, who may guard, preserve, protect, and defend me in this life; that I may ever walk in thy ways, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Holy Mary, most pure mother of Jesus, thou who art blessed among women! I commend myself to thy motherly protection; that by thy gracious intercession with thy son, I may do nothing but what is pleasing to him, and profitable to the salvation of my soul.

All you beloved Saints of God! pray for me; that I may be a partaker in the merits of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

EVENING PRAYER.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Blessed be the Holy and undivided Trinity, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

O GREAT God, Father, Author and Preserver of my life! I praise and bless thee for every good which I and all thy children upon earth have received from thy fatherly hand. O that I had been worthy of thy benefits, that I had scrupulously accomplished thy holy will in all things, that I had laboured to please thee, and to imitate thy Son, Jesus, and had found joy and

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Jesus, thou finisher of the salvation of immortal souls, dearly purchased by thy sacred blood, living and dead, I will ever be thine. *Amen.*

Litany for the Evening.

O LORD, our God, *have mercy on us.*
O Jesus Christ, Son of God, *have mercy on us.*
O God the Holy Ghost, *have mercy on us.*
Most holy Trinity, one God, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Mary, blessed Mother of our Lord, *pray for us.*
O Lord, we are sinners, *spare us, O Lord.*
But by repentance we become reconciled to thee, *help us, O God.*
From all transgressions of thy holy commandments,
From criminal indifference, ingratitude and pride,
From seduction and all allurements to sin,
From the spirit of uncharitableness,
From war, violence, and all bodily injuries,
From famine and contagious disorders,
From sudden and unprovided death in our sins,
From everlasting death,

Deliver us, O God.

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Through thy fatherly grace,
Through all that thou hast done and suffered for us,
Through his painful death on the cross,
Through his holy resurrection,
Through his glorious ascension,
Through the coming down of the Holy Ghost, the Comforter,
Through thy glory, sitting at the right hand of the Father,
In every affliction of the heart which we feel, when none can help us but thou,
We poor sinners, *beseech thee to hear us.*

Deliver us, O God.

That our ardent prayers may ascend to thy throne,
That thou wilt bless, support and extend thy holy, visible and Catholic Church, built upon the rock of Peter,
That thou wilt preserve the visible Head of thy holy Church, all bishops, priests and teachers in the truth of thy word, and in purity of life,
That thou wilt enlighten and amend the world by thy holy Gospel,
That thou wilt lead into the right path all those that err and are weak in spirit—and deliver them from all schisms and separations from thy holy Church,

We beseech thee to hear us.

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Pour into every afflicted heart consolation and relief,
Lead and govern the hearts of our king and all our civil superiors, that in union and peace we may pray to thee and praise thee, our God,
Bless all those who are near to our hearts by the ties of kindred and affection,
Protect and prosper our beloved country,
Grant to all parents, prosperity, strength and life,
Preserve all children and young persons in thy holy fear,
Deliver and protect all those under oppression,
Have mercy on the sick and desolate,
Be thou, O God! the supporter of widows and orphans,
Forgive and convert our enemies,
Bless all mankind, our brothers and sisters,
Give increase to the fruits of the earth,
Let our humble supplications come to thee,

We beseech thee to hear us.

O Jesus Christ, Son of God, *have mercy on us.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, *hear us, O Lord.*

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O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, *spare us, O Lord.*
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, *grant us thy holy peace.*
O Lord, hear us.
And have mercy on us!
Our Father, &c.—Hail Mary, &c.

Prayer.

O GOD! our refuge, our helper and deliverer in all our troubles, graciously hear the prayers of thy people who fly to thee for succour, and let us find mercy before thy face, that we may obtain all that we pray for.

Preserve us, O Lord, from all dangers of soul and body, and by the intercession of the most pure Virgin Mary, of thy apostles, Peter and Paul, and all the holy saints; protected and blessed by thy fatherly goodness, grant us to live in repose and the security of peace, threatened by no evils or snares, in the knowledge of truth and the simplicity of faith, to walk in the way of justice and virtue, and ever strive to attain that perfection to which thou hast called us all, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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PRAYERS

FOR THE

Most holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

PREPARATORY PRAYER.

I WILL compose my thoughts in quiet recollection, and have thee only, O God, before my eyes, as I now purpose to assist at the holy and unbloody sacrifice of the new covenant, this everlasting memorial of that bloody sacrifice, which thou, my Lord Jesus Christ, didst consummate upon the cross. This holy sacrifice of the Mass is called a sacrifice, because thy body and blood are therein offered upon the altar to thy heavenly Father. Thou who art a high-priest for ever, art the founder of this holy sacrifice: for whilst thou didst yet converse upon earth amongst men, the day before thy passion and death, thou didst take bread and the chalice with wine, and blessing them didst say: *This is my body*, and over the chalice, *This is the chalice of the new testament in my blood*, and gavest them to thy apostles for their nourishment, and saidst, *Do this in remembrance of me.* Thou

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hadst ordained it, that in thy visible Church a true and peculiar sacrifice might exist till the end of time; that thereby the everlasting remembrance of thy bloody sacrifice on the cross might be preserved in thy Church, and to exhibit a pledge of thy endless love for us. Here in this most holy sacrifice is displayed the great miracle of love, by which thou offeredst thyself in an invisible manner, but in a visible manner to us by the hands of the priest, to thy eternal Father. And what do thy anointed priest differ from what thou didst? They present to thy Father this holy oblation, to acknowledge his sovereign dominion over all creatures, to thank him for thy unceasing benefits, which his fatherly goodness is pleased to favour us, to implore his forgiveness for us thy sinful children, and to beseech him to grant us further graces, by which we may be enabled to work out our everlasting salvation. Thus is truly offered to thee a sacrifice of praise—of thanksgiving —of propitiation—and of impetration.

O how gracious is this institution! What blessings may I receive by worthily assisting at the holy Mass! I will neglect no part of them; I will assist not only in body, but much more in spirit, and hear it attentively, reverently, with adoration and devotion.—

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And during the principal parts, the gospel, the offertory, the holy consecration and communion, I will fix well in my heart the great and holy mysteries it contains. I will assist at this holy sacrifice with all possible reverence, kneeling, and signing myself with the sign of the holy cross, the trophy of Christians. Standing at the gospel, I will return thanks for the grace of the light and knowledge of faith, adore and humble myself to the dust. At the consecration of thy most holy body and blood, I will banish all worldly thoughts from my soul, and in spirit with the priest receive thee into my heart, and have thee only, O Son of God, before my eyes. O good God, grant me for this end thy support and grace. *Amen.*

At the Beginning of the Holy Mass.

O MOST holy God! to thee do I lift up my soul—to thee I bring my penitent prayer for grace and mercy. O my Lord, look down upon me with an eye of favour and mercy, and graciously hear the cries of thy child, who in anguish of heart calls out to thee; O Lord, I acknowledge my guilt, my great wickedness, my manifold crimes by breaking thy holy commandments; have mercy on me, O Lord, grant me forgiveness of all

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my sins, shew me thy merciful deliverance, and free me from the enemies of my soul. O Lord, I acknowledge thy commandments. O Lord, conduct me as thou wilt. O Lord, I confess to thee. O God, I praise thee. Holy God, almighty God, eternal God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

At the Gloria.

PRAISE and glory be to thee, O God, in the highest! Most merciful Father! look down upon us thy children, on thee only do we rest our hopes. Grant us peace, that peace which the world cannot give; grant us a pure heart, that we may cry out; Glory be to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good will. O God! it shall not be now as formerly, when the shepherds of the field came to adore and became partakers of salvation, while the inhabitants of Jerusalem remained afar off; we will come and give ourselves entirely up to thee. O God, be thou with us, and let thy peace gladden us on our way. O Lord our God! hear the humble prayer which we present thee, with full confidence in thee and thy holy spirit. Look with an eye of love on the number of thy children militant on earth, upon thy whole flock, whose good

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and kind shepherd thou art. Inflamé our hearts with the fire of thy divine love; give us strength for all good works; let us walk, O Lord, in purity of heart and holiness of life; that in holy fear, which proceeds from love, we may seek our future salvation, and effectually find it through thy beloved Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

At the Epistle.

The 1st Epistle of St. John, chap. ii.

1. MY little children, these things I write to you that you may not sin. But if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the just.

2. And he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

3. And by this we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4. He that saith he knoweth him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him:

5. But he that keepeth his word, in him in very deed the charity of God is perfected: and by this we know that we are in him.

6. He that saith he abideth in him, ought himself also to walk, even as he walked.

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7. Dearly beloved, I write not a new commandment to you, but an old commandment, which you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you have heard.

8. Again a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true, both in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

9. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

10. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is no scandal in him.

At the Gospel.

O LORD, the hearing of thy gospel brings to my soul the most holy recollections of the first Christian Church. What humble faith, working so strongly by charity, was to be found amongst its members! What strength of spirit, to go joyfully to death for thy gospel, without regard to the kind of terrors of the torture!—What a holy brotherhood was amongst them! How did they love each other, as children of one and the same Father, as brethren of one and the same Mediator, as partakers of one and the same holy spirit!—What they could

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do by thy grace, we can also do, we are bound to do it, and we will do it; receive then, O my heavenly Father, this renewal of my baptismal vows, to remain under thy standard, to pay homage to thee alone, to fight for thee alone, and in this combat to persevere to the end. Be thou my leader, I will follow thee in all things. I will but will I with all my heart? For if a man will fight under the standard of Christ, he is bound to will with all his heart, and this will, alas! is as rare amongst men, as holiness is among sinners. Yes, I will; I will not only hear thy word with my whole heart, but will always fulfil thy holy will in my regard; grant me for this end, O Jesus, thy powerful grace.

At the Credo.

I BELIEVE in thee, O blessed Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; I believe in Jesus, his divinity and humanity, I believe in thee, O Jesus! I believe all that thou hast taught—I believe that thou art the Son of the Father, and the Saviour of mankind. I believe in thy word, for it is the word of God; in thy works, for they are the works of God; in thy precepts, for they are the precepts of God. I believe that thy life is

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the fairest pattern of holiness for our imitation, and thy death the cause of our happiness.

I believe that thou didst rise from the grave, and ascend to thy Father.

I believe that thou sittest at the right hand of the Father, and hast there prepared mansions for us thy brethren.

I believe that thou wilt one day come again, and take us to thyself.

I believe in thee, that thou wilt raise up the dead, and judge all mankind.

I believe in thee and in thy holy spirit; I believe all thou hast commanded us to believe by thy holy, visible, Catholic and apostolic church, founded on Peter! and all that was delivered to thy holy apostles as thy word, and preserved to our days in thy holy church, which began with them; whether it be written or unwritten.

I believe in a holy triumphant church in heaven, which now exults in thy glory,—and I believe in its beneficial communion.

I believe in the forgiveness of my sins by thee, to be obtained by contrition and repentance: and after this life I hope to be united for ever with thee, my Lord Jesus Christ! *Amen.*

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At the Offertory.

O LORD God, heavenly Father! I offer myself to thee with thy priest, and call upon thee, O eternal and omnipotent God! Accept this unspotted sacrifice, for a propitiation for our sins, for obtaining all heavenly graces and strength, for the welfare and glory of thy church militant, for obtaining everlasting peace for all who are gone before us in the way of all flesh, that they may repose in the sleep of peace and happiness, thro' Jesus Christ thy Son. *Amen.*

At the Preface.

ETERNAL God and Father! we beseech thee, raise up our hearts, and our minds from all that is earthly—that our desires and longing may be directed to thee in heaven; that thereby we may be enabled to love thee alone, to think of thee, to speak of thee; that our lives may be made conformable to thy divine Son, in order to enjoy thee here after for all eternity. As the moment draws near, when Jesus Christ, our Lord, will be present in a wonderful manner on this thy holy altar, let our prayer come to thee, and thank thee for thy unspeakable

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kindness and mercy, in sending thy Son to us in the fullness of time; for which favour, with the choirs of angels and blessed spirits, we cry out to thee from our loving hearts: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts! Heaven and earth are full of thy glory! Glory be to God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

At the Canon.

PLACE thyself, my soul, upon the mount of Calvary, and call to mind what a God Man has done for thee; that he died in unspeakable torments under the hands of audacious sinners; and that for thee—in order to deliver thee from the bands of sin and eternal death. Yes, divine Saviour! all that thou didst that was great and memorable is now renewed in a mysterious manner upon this altar, and by the hands of the priest. The angels of God are hovering unseen around this holy place. Here I behold the holy and perfect society of heaven, united in thy holy sanctuary. And it is thou, O Jesus Christ! who vouchsafed to conceal thyself under the forms of bread and wine, in this mystery of love, when the priest, in thy name, pronounces the words of thy holy institution. There do I behold

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thee with the eyes of humility and faith, there do I feel with holy awe thy blissful presence, there will I cast myself with humble adoration before thee the most holy God, there will I adore thee in admiration and astonishment, O Jesus Christ, true God and Man. O Lord! in perfect confidence in thee I pray to thee for the exaltation of thy holy church, the enlightening and sanctification of our chief pastor—for our bishop—for the preservation of thy servant, our sovereign—for the temporal and eternal welfare of my beloved parents, brothers and sisters, and for all for whom I feel myself bound to pray. Graciously hear my prayer, enlighten the inmost recesses of my soul; that in spirit and truth, now that thou art about to appear, I may worthily adore and praise thee.

At the Consecration of the most holy Body of our Lord.

O LORD Jesus Christ! I adore thee truly present under the appearance of bread, with thy divinity and humanity, with thy sacred flesh and blood. Thou true bread, which came down from heaven, and givest everlasting life to those who believe in thee. I believe in thee, I hope in thee, my Jesus! love thee, I am thine in life and death.

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At the Consecration of the sacred Blood.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who didst die for us on the cross, and didst shed thy precious blood for us, wash me clean from all sin, I beseech thee, through thy precious blood, which is contained in this holy chalice; enflame my heart with the fire of thy heavenly love, that I may love, praise and adore thee with my whole soul. *Amen.*

After the Elevation.

PRAISE, glory and thanksgiving be to thee, O Lord, heavenly Father! for the unspeakable love of thy only-begotten Son, whom thy paternal kindness bestowed upon us when he appeared upon earth, who for us and our sakes took upon himself the mortal habit of our human nature, became obedient to thee even unto the death of the cross, fulfilled thy most holy will in all things, and drank to the dregs the bitter cup of sorrow—who shed his sacred blood upon the cross, as a propitiation for all mankind, redeemed the whole human race by his death, and so fulfilled all the prophecies of the old testament in his own person. For these graces, how can I sufficiently

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thank thee, O holy and eternal God? How can I repay thy merciful love, for all thou hast done for me, and still bestows upon me with unwearied goodness? To thee be praise in humility of heart, adoration and most profound reverence! And may we poor sinners receive from thee grace and peace upon earth, and a holy and happy death!

At the Memento *for the Dead.*

O ALMIGHTY God! before whose power heaven and earth, and the whole universe tremble, the angels are penetrated with holy fear, and the heavenly powers fall down in adoration; I venture to approach to thee with humble confidence, to call thee Father, and to beg of thee, in the name of thy only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, grace and everlasting rest for all faithful Christians, who are gone before us in the sleep of peace. O Lord! thou hast taken them all from us, our beloved N. and N. who were so near to us by the ties of blood and affection—we felt severely the pains of separation, but we have courage to exclaim: O Lord thy will be done! They are gone to their eternal home—but whether they are already in the brightness of thy light,

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is known only to thee, who hast care of all thy creatures. We recommend them to thy mercy, if, on account of their sins, they are still detained in a place of expiation.—O Lord! release them from it, through the death and precious blood shed by thy Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

At the Agnus Dei.

O LAMB of God, who takest away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.

O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, hear us, O Lord.

O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

O God, our Father, from thee proceed all holy affections, from thy grace spring all good resolutions, all meritorious works arise and quiet peace comes into the soul, that peace which the world can neither give nor take away. Grant us this peace,—grant us *thy* peace; that we may walk according to thy holy commandments, fulfil thy holy will, and live in joy and concord through Christ our Lord.

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At the Holy Communion of the Priest.

O LOVING Jesus! come to my afflicted heart, come to me spiritually for my sins render me unworthy to approach thee. O come and pour consolation into my heart, come and fill my inmost soul with heavenly joy, and let me be well convinced that not in earthly things, but in thee alone is that happiness to be found which changes us from sinners to be children of God. I will renew the holy promise of a total change of conduct, I will in future never stand still in the way of perfection, but always labour to advance; that when the happy moment arives when I shall receive thy flesh and blood in this most holy sacrament, I may be prepared to receive thee worthily, and in a manner profitable for the salvation of my soul, that I may remain for ever with thee, and with all the blessed spirits pay thee honour, praise, glory and adoration.

At the Blessing.

O BOUNTIFUL God! bless me by the hand of thy priest, bless me in body and soul, my property, and all that belongs

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to me; bless my country, bless all mankind, bless me in my calling and state of life, and may the blessing of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost remain upon me for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayer after Mass.

O GOD! I thank thee for the favour of having assisted at this holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Grant that by thy blessing it may bring forth fruit a hundred fold within me; that my faith may be more active, my love in thee and of all good ever purer and more fervent, my virtue always more ardent and perfect, and the victory over my inclinations and passions easier and more complete; that with resolute fidelity I may remain thine to the end of my life. *Amen.*

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PRAYERS

FOR

Confession and Communion.

Prayers before Confession.

I WILL throw myself at the feet of thy consecrated priest, and acknowledge in contrition and sorrow, before thee O omnicient God! and thy holy representative, that I am a sinful creature unworthy of thy grace and favour. O sublime function! O salutary institution! the holy sacrament of penance, in which the priest, in the name of the most holy Trinity forgives the sinner his iniquities, when in his heart he sincerely repents of them, and feels an interior sorrow of mind for his sins; when he confesses them in humility of heart and all possible sincerity, and is determined to do real penance for them, and to amend his life in future. This mystery of grace and salvation instituted by thee, O Jesus! is to me a pledge of thy tender love to us, thy brethren. Thou, the eternal Word of the Father didst institute this holy sacrament of penance after thy glorious resurrection, when thou didst appear in the midst of thy beloved apostles, to remove all doubt from their minds, which prevented them from understanding the divine economy of our re-

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demption. Then didst thou, with divine meekness and authority given thee by thy heavenly Father, speak the ever memorable words to the holy company of thy apostles; *receive ye the Holy Ghost: whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them: and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained.*—(St. John xx. x. 23.) And this power, given to thy apostles, is still in the bosom of thy Holy, Apostolic Church, and will never be lost! O blessed faith! God has said it, and his word is true for ever. The priest can and will absolve me from my sins in the name of God, if I on my part omit nothing that is requisite for a good confession. And is any thing required which I cannot do? O no; only humility, repentance, love, contrition, and a firm determination to amend; these only are required by thee, O God, as indispensable conditions for a thorough conversion by penance. Where there is humility, where also is the knowledge of our souls. A knowledge which lets me see into the inmost recesses of my heart, where I discover all my sinfulness and earthly-mindedness, and learn all the wretchedness and misery into which my sins and my continuance in sin have brought me. When this knowledge is present to me, then the confession of the multitude and grievousness of my sins comes forth from the affliction of my heart, enlightened by a divine light from on high, which I beseech thee to grant

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me; then arises a sadness, an interior, supernatural grief for having by sin offended thee, O God of love! From the weight of this affliction, arising from the holy love of God, first comes the well ordered, serious and immoveable resolution, to depart from evil, to renounce all sin, and by the sanctifying grace of God to become a better man, and a more pious Christian. In this manner must my interior dispositions be regulated, in order to approach profitably to this sacrament of penance instituted by Christ for the salvation of mankind, and to receive it worthily and with the happiest effects. If I possess these qualifications, then will all shame, fear, and pride, the only evils I have to apprehend, vanish from my soul; and in their place will come a penitent and candid confession of all my sins. Now I know what a worthy confession is. Yes, dear God! I will conscientiously labour to perform it well, and now proceed to the holy work, confidently invoking the assistance of thy Holy Spirit.

Come Holy Ghost, thou ruler of the hearts of men! enlighten the darkness of my soul! thou who art called the Comforter, come with thy seven-fold gifts, and teach me to see and confess my sinful condition.—That my sins, with all their enormity, may pass before the eyes of my soul: come, O Spirit of Truth! and grant me the light of thy grace for the examination of my conscience.

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☞ *The first part of this examination, entitled* "*Sins against God,*" *is an examination on the three first commandments of God and of the church. The second part, entitled* "Sins against my Neighbour," *is an examination on the seven latter commandments of God. The third part, entitled* "Sins against myself," *is an examination on the seven deadly sins, and on the duties of each ones calling and station in life.*

Care must be taken at every sin committed, to examine further the number of times we have been guilty, also the aggravating circumstances attending it; and if it be any sin of scandal, before how many such sins have been committed.

Examination of Conscience.

I.

SINS AGAINST GOD.

HAVE I neglected my morning and evening prayers, or said them only in part or with wilful distractions?

Have I raised up my heart to God before and after my meals, studies, or the other duties of my calling?

Having received any blessing from God did I return him thanks? or if on the contrary, he sent me any trial, did I murmur?

Have I doubted of any thing which the holy Catholic Church teaches? or, have I dared, through self-conceit, to alter my belief

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according to my own private opinion, and as it flattered best my natural inclinations? instead of grounding it with humility on the testimony of the Catholic Church of God: a sin too common now-a-days in the world, which would fain appear fine and fashionable.

Have I omitted to hear the word of God through neglect, or from the ungodly idea, that such an one did not preach it with sufficient eloquence?

Have I taken the name of God in vain, or prophaned any other sacred name, or any text of the holy scriptures?

Have I been guilty of swearing inconsiderately?

Have I read any book leading to infidelity, or given ear to irreligious discourse, or ridiculed sacred persons, holy things, or pious practices?

Have I heard a whole Mass on Sundays, and other Holy days of obligation?

Have I prophaned those days by any forbidden work, or spent the whole afternoon without performing any religious duty?

Have I at all times assisted at divine service with devotion, and without giving any scandal? Have I duly observed the days of fasting and abstinence?

Have I been guilty of any material omission or negligence, the last time I approached the holy sacraments?

Have I neglected, for any considerable time

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after falling into sin, to rise again and return to my Heavenly Father by a sincere act of contrition and preparing for Confession?

II.

SINS AGAINST MY NEIGHBOUR.

1st. Towards my Superiors.
2ndly. Towards my Inferiors.
3dly. Towards all others in general.

1st. Towards my Superiors.

Have I been obedient to my parents in all things?

Have I been wanting in love, or respect, for them?

Have I sincerely loved my brothers and sisters, and avoided any ways to offend them? or, if myself offended have I been patient and forgiving?

Have I squandered away any part of my parent's substance, or not repaid their cares and expences through want of application in learning or to my business?

Have I shewn to all my other superiors, both temporal and spiritual, due respect, and that for the sake of Christ, whose representatives they are?

Have I been disobedient to them? and have I duly performed the work for which I was hired, or any ways obliged to perform?

Have I borne any ill will against any of my superiors for any reprimand received, or harboured any contempt for them on account of their failings?

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2ndly. Towards my Inferiors.

Have I given them any scandal by words or actions?

Have I endeavoured to keep them, as far as I am obliged in the observance of the commandments of God and of his church?

Have I withheld any part of their wages, or oppressed them with excessive work?

Have I in any way ill-treated them?

If blessed with children, have I been careful concerning these five essential points, viz. That they learn their Christian doctrine—that they perform their daily and other devotions—that bad companions, and other occasions of sin, be removed from them—not to indulge them in their passions—not to use wicked words when reprimanding them for their faults?

3dly. Towards all others in general.

IN THOUGHT.

Have I harboured aversion or ill-will against any one?

Have I been angry against any one, or entertained revengeful thoughts?

Have I judged rashly of any one's actions or intentions?

IN WORD.

Have I been guilty of cursing any person, or thing, or wishing any harm to them?

Have I robbed any one of his peace of mind, or provoked any one by reproaches? or, if provoked myself, have I quarrelled, and returned evil with evil?

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Have I uncharitably repeated the faults or imperfections of others?

Have I been guilty of the heinous crime of detraction, by speaking of my neighbour what is false or uncertain, or publishing what is secret?

Have I willingly listened to any such detraction?

Have I told lies, and was it to the prejudice of any one? or have I sworn to any untruth?

IN DEED.

Have I been guilty of striking any one? or of spiteful signs or behaviour?

Have I cheated any one in buying or selling, or in any bargain or contract?

Have I taken or given away any thing which belonged to others?

Have I in any manner wronged my neighbour in his right or property?

Have I been guilty of any spiritual murder by drawing others into sin?

BY OMISSION.

Have I neglected to make restitution to any neighbour whom I have injured, either in his property or good name?

Have I repaired all the bad example I have given?

Have I avoided all the known immediate dangers or occasions of sin?

Have I hindered, when in my power, any detractions, or irreligious and unclean discourse?

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Have I neglected or refused to be reconciled to my enemies, or to pray for them?

III

SINS AGAINST MYSELF.

BY PRIDE.

Have I esteemed myself too much, or taken pleasure in any vain imagination?

Have I spoken to my own praise, or done any thing merely to procure the esteem and praise of others?

Have I compared and preferred myself before others, or despised any one?

Have I squandered away money in any extravagance?

BY AVARICE.

Have I harboured any excessive desire or attachment to money? or do I entertain too much anxiety in losing or parting with it?

BY LUST.

Have I been careless in resisting temptation, when taken unawares by an impure representation, or meeting a dangerous object?

Have I exposed myself, or others, to any unchastity by immodest dress or behaviour, by indecent pictures, or bad books, or by going or staying in dangerous places, or with loose companions?

Have I wilfully taken pleasure in any indecent thought?

Have I taken pleasure in impure desires, and this with relation to what kind of person?

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Have I taken pleasure in any shameful irregular motion?

Have I spoken or listened to any indecent or double-meaning words or songs, and was this in the presence of the yet innocent, or person of a different sex?

Have I been guilty of any immodesty by looks, kisses, touches, or other actions?

Have I been guilty of fornication or adultery?

Have I been guilty of any irregularity contrary to the order of nature in the marriage state? or have I sought any such sin, or tempted others to it?

BY GLUTTONY.

Have I been guilty of any excess in eating or drinking?

BY ENVY.

Have I harboured any uneasiness at another's success or praise? or rejoice at any one's misfortune?

Have I endeavoured to lessen or decry another's merit or good gift?

BY SLOTH.

Have I neglected to acquire the necessary knowledge, or omitted the performance, of the duties of any particular vocation, and state of life?

Have I performed any of my religious or moral duties carelessly—or studied too much my own ease— or spent my time idly, or unprofitably?

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PRAYER BEFORE CONFESSION.

Prayer.

THESE are the questions which thou puttest to me, O holy God! by the truth-telling voice of my conscience. How does the consideration of all these things penetrate my whole soul! O God! I acknowledge that I am very far from thy paternal heart; for my sins have estranged me from thee.—Hitherto I have been so infatuated as to find pleasure in sin, where in reality there is none to be found.—Now I can clearly see why in my solitary hours I felt such strange commotions within me,—for thou wert not the object of my inmost affection,—this I acknowledge, and that it deeply moves my heart, is already a proof of thy fatherly mercy and goodness. Yes, O Lord, I will make good use of thy grace, I will labour, and earnestly co-operate with thy holy inspirations. My resolutions for the future shall be more animated and effectual, they shall be far more perfect; O my Lord! I will seek thee with all sincerity, and thou wilt reward my search; for I shall find thee, thou wilt open thy fatherly arms to receive me, and embrace thy lost child, found again by repentance. O happy confidence, which thou hast deposited in my heart! My Saviour came to seek that which was lost! I feel in my soul contrition, hearty contrition for all my manifold sins; a

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contrition which proceeds from the love with which I desire to cleave fast to thee; a contrition for my sins, because I have offended thee, my good God and the best of fathers. But this contrition is not alone in my soul; it is accompanied by the earnest desire and resolution never more to transgress thy holy commandments; the sincere determination to rise up from the sleep of sin, and to begin a new spiritual life by thy holy and sanctifying grace. O God! thy assistance will not be wanting to me; for I ask it of thee in the name of thy only begotten Son Jesus Christ. No, my Lord! I have spoken no hypocritical words to thee; for what could such language avail me? And now I will finish the work of penance which I have begun, by a holy and sincere confession; I will confess all my sins and imperfections with true humility of heart to thy chosen and appointed priest; I will humbly receive his instructions and exortations, and follow them with thy holy grace; and by sacramental absolution I humbly hope to receive thy perfect pardon.

Prayer after Confession.

"HAVE confidence, my son! thy sins are forgiven thee." This I humbly hope with confidence, in thee O God! These consolatory words are addressed to me, and I feel a heavenly peace in my soul; for my dis-

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burthened conscience enables me to cry out to thee in the emotion of my loving heart: O God! how great, how unbounded is thy mercy; thou hast received me again as thy child. How joyful to me is the consideration that I am again made partaker of thy friendship! O God, may this repose, this inward peace be my portion every day for the time to come; how happy shall I then esteem myself! And now O Lord! accept the offering of all that I am, and let me remain for ever thine. *Amen.*

FIRST PRAYER
BEFORE THE HOLY COMMUNION.
For Young Persons.

WITH deep and lively emotion, I appear this day before thy holy altar, O good and beloved Father in heaven, to bring thee thanksgiving, praise and glory, for having permitted me to see again the happy and joyful day, in which by the reception of thy most holy body and blood I shall be received into the faithful participation of all those secure advantages, which are attached to the profession of the saving doctrines of our Redeemer. How precious, how glorious a day is this! Thou callest, and I come, as a child to his loving father, as a scholar to his beloved master. I offer to thee, a pure and innocent heart. O that it may ever remain

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an offering well-pleasing in thy sight! I recollect myself now in sweet tranquility, before I draw near the altar, where I shall be favoured with the participation of this great mystery; I will collect my thoughts, and raise up my heart and hands to thee, with the most lively sentiments of gratitude. Yes, praise, glory and adoration be to thee, O holy God! for having permitted me to be born of Christian parents, whose earnest and constant desire was to strengthen me in the faith and doctrines of thy Son, Jesus Christ, that I might say with truth: for thee do I live and die, who art the author and founder of my happiness! Yes, O Lord! thou didst hear the prayer of my beloved parents, in giving me teachers who deeply impressed my heart with the conviction that the religion I profess is true, divine, and the only one capable of affording peace and happiness. O my Father! I implore thy heavenly blessing this day upon those who taught me with love and patience;—thy blessing upon my good and dear parents: heaven's choicest blessings on my good father and my dear mother. O Jesus! my Mediator, my Master and my God! I promise this day eternal fidelity to thee, and observance of thy holy commandments. Let my joy and my glory be in the confession of thy holy faith; as long as I live I will never forget what I have this day promised thee. O Holy God! I will

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follow thy holy doctrines, for they alone are doctrines that can make me happy; their directions are the holiest and most excellent. Their promises give me security; the holy sacraments and means of grace give me strength and courage throughout my life. Let thy holy doctrine always be the companion of my life, and the guardian angel of my virtue. Support and protect my innocence by the sanctifying grace of thy holy Spirit; preserve in me a pure heart as long as I live, that I may perform all that I have this day promised thee with my whole soul; and when the hour arrives, sooner or later, when thou wilt call me from this transitory life, I may then say with truth: I have kept my faith, I have finished the noble fight; for the rest, the crown of justice is laid up for me, which the Lord renders to all, who remain faithful to him. I beg also this of thee, O Almighty God! in the name of thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, my Saviour, whose precious body and blood thou vouchsafest this day again to bestow upon me.

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;
Body of Christ, save me;
Blood of Christ, inebriate me;
Water from the side of Christ, wash me;
Passion of Christ, strengthen me;
O good Jesus, hear me;
Hide me within thy wounds;
Permit me not to be separated from thee;
Defend me from the malignant enemy;

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Call me at the hour of my death;
And command me to come to thee;
That I may praise thee with thy saints
For ever and ever. *Amen.*

SECOND PRAYER
BEFORE THE HOLY COMMUNION.
For Older Persons.

BEFORE I approach the holy altar of the new covenant, to receive thy sacred body and blood, I will mediate in silent devotion on the intention of this holy sacrament which thou, my divine Saviour, hast instituted for thy faithful. Thou didst say; take and eat, this is my body which is given for you; and as often as you do these things, you shall do them in commemoration of me, for the remission of sins. Drink ye all of the chalice of the new testament, for this is the chalice of my blood of the new and eternal testament, a mystery of faith which shall be shed for you and for many.

Here dost thou plainly speak to our souls, words which rightly considered are most proper to excite in my believing mind that tender devotion, which will prepare me to receive this sacrament in a worthy manner. Full of sweetness, mildness and mercy, thou invitest me to thy holy banquet. O, I will mediate deeply upon it, and permit my heart to enjoy those pure and exalted delights which come

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from heaven, and cannot be given by earth. Yes, O Lord Jesus Christ, thou art truly ours in the holy sacrament of the altar; thy blood is ours, for it flowed for us; thy body is ours, for it was offered for our redemption; thy flesh is ours, it was laid for us in the manger of Bethlehem, and delivered up for us upon the cross, in death and in the grave. O what excessive love! But this mystery of love must be received by me in a holy manner worthily, and with thanksgiving, adoration, repentance and contrition; with sentiments of humility, with pious devotion, with dispositions well-pleasing in thy sight. For it is truly the body of my Saviour, the blood of my Redeemer, the seal of the covenant and the pledge of my immortality. O how much am I bound on my part to prepare by a strict and severe examination and self probation! Yes, it is most necessary for me to look into my interior with an impartial and rigid scrutiny, to confess my sinfulness, and strike my breast in the spirit of compunction, humbling myself before the face of my God. Every day is thy holy table set forth and offered for the participation of thy faithful, and how often do I remain at a distance from my Redeemer! and yet I stand so much in need of thee, for thou art truly omnipotent and rich in grace to all who throw themselves into thy arms; and truly, without thee, our life is miserable and bereft of every comfort. But happy is the conscience of those who worthily receive

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thee in this most holy sacrament, in which thou givest them the expectation of inheriting everlasting happiness. Yes, O Lord! with faith and confidence will I approach thy banquet; I will dedicate my whole life to thy love by a worthy reception of thy flesh and blood, that I may become thy dutiful child. O Lord! I have gratefully accepted thy sweet invitation. I will come, and make with thee a covenant of friendship for ever and ever.

O thou Lamb of God! who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on me, and take up thy abode in my heart, which so ardently loves thee; come, come, O my Jesus! and remain with me now and for ever. O Jesus, I live for thee! O Jesus, I die for thee! I am thine in life and death.

PRAYER

After receiving the most holy Sacrament of the Altar.

NOW are all my desires and pious wishes accomplished; for I possess thee, my Lord and my God: I have truly received thy flesh and blood in this most holy mystery of love. I adore thee with profound humility of heart, O Jesus, thou good shepherd! Jesus, my love, thou joy of my heart. O Jesus, my strength! Jesus, my only hope! Jesus, my only desire! Jesus, my comfort and my greatest happiness. My mind is quit-

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lost in the abyss of thy mercies, my tongue is incapable of utterance.

But thou wilt not reject my imperfect accents, which seek for words to adore thee as thou deservest, and find them in that love which enables me to exclaim:

Renew, O Lord my withered heart,
Thy love's eternal flames impart;
That while in dark distress I groan,
Thy succour I may seek alone
Ah me! to praise thee far too weak,
And yet too ardent not to speak,
Thy love that fills my heart and mind
Will loudly praise thee unconfined.
The tongue will speak the soul's desire,
The sparks will blaze from love's bright fire,
And tender words will freely flow,
From breasts that burn and lips that glow.
Who drinks thee, shall not thirst again,
Who eats, shall feel no hunger's pain;
His hunger and his thirst shall be,
The sole desire to live on thee!

O Jesus, accept my heart and mind, my will, and all that I am; for to love thee only is my gain. To love God, to love my Jesus, to love all men as my brethren, this shall be my most holy endeavour as long as I live on earth. O Jesus! I will be of one mind with thee, I will walk in purity, as thou didst walk; for thy mind is the mind of God, and thy paths lead to God,—to thee. And may

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this holy and joyful festival, this holy reception of thee, be to me a foretaste of those heavenly joys which I hope to possess above, where no darkness, no death, no sin, no sorrow, no transitory thing will separate me from thee; but where the light of God will destroy all darkness, the love of God expel all sin; thy peace will banish all misery, and everlasting life will triumph over death. Alleluia to thee, O Son of God! Jesus Christ! Praise and glory from eternity to eternity! *Amen.*

MEDITATIONS AND Prayers for the Feasts of OUR LORD, THE B. VIRGIN MARY, AND THE SAINTS.

Meditation and Prayer for the holy time of Advent.

HOW holy and venerable are the days which are set apart by the holy church for preparing ourselves, by silent retreat and serious recollection of Spirit, for that season, when Jesus Christ in the fullness of time, was born of a woman,—in order that we might become the children of God. May this holy Advent be sacred and venerable to my soul,—in which we expect the coming of our Lord,—in which I will reflect on the wonderful mercy of God, in the appearance of his

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Son in the flesh.—This disposition of Providence for my salvation is worthy of all my attention, and of my most humble thanksgiving. I will make good use of these days, for the love of God, and ponder well in my heart all that is written of this event in the New Testament. The consideration of these things will give joy to my soul, and consolation to my heart. I begin with humble faith the gospel of St. John, Chapter the 1st

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him: and without him was made nothing that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men: and the light shineth in darkness, and darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men might believe through him. He was not the light, but was to bear witness of the light. That was the true light, which enlighteneth every man that cometh into this world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them he gave power to be made the sons of God, to them that believe in his name. Who are born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of

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God. And THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, and dwelt among us (and we saw his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

Thus speaks the amiable St. John, whom the Lord, while he sojourned here below in the form of a servant, honoured with his particular friendship and brotherly love. Thus speaks the disciple whom Jesus loved. O what words of eternal life are contained in this gospel! Full of deep meaning and of the holy Spirit, he penetrates—a child of dust as I am, a breath of God—he penetrates the depths of eternity, the profound abyss of the Being of Beings.—Yes, from eternity was the Word—and the Word was God. Thou O Jesus! art the truth and the life! (St. John, xiv. v. 6.) O Jesus Christ! thou the wisdom of the Father—thou, his eternal substantial effulgence—thou, the only begotten Son, who art in the bosom of the Father. By him all things were made, and without him was made nothing that was made. Not only were all things made by the Word; but by the Word also they consist. *By him all things c nsists*, says the Apostle Paul—(Col. I. v. 17.) "In him was life, and the life was the light "of men. And the light shineth in darkness, "and the darkness did not comprehend it."—I read further in the 9th verse: "that was the "true light, which enlighteneth every man "that cometh into this world." Thou, my

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Jesus, givest me the divine ray of reason; and thou also givest me the spiritual monitor, conscience. He that giveth himself up to thy guidance, thou leadest him to the Father. All that I possess, I have from thee. "In him we live, and move, and be." (Acts xvii. v. 28.) But to how many baptized unbelievers dost thou remain an unknown God! O to how many of us, who are baptized in thy name, may be applied that sentence of the evangelist: "he came unto his own, and his own received him not." O that this pride, this sensuality may never so possess my soul, that the words of the prophet may be applied to me, where he says: "your iniquities have "divided between you and your God, and "your sins have hid his face from you." (Isaias, lix. v. 2.) Thy light is ever shining, for thou art the Son of Justice, which never sets. But how often have I opposed thy light! I must absolutely renounce all pride and sensuality, and then thou, O Jesus, wilt open my eyes, and in the gracious splendour of thy divine light, I shall behold the way and the truth, which will conduct me to thee.

"But as many as received him, to them he "gave power to be made the sons of God, to "them that believe in his name." To what an exalted dignity does my Saviour raise me! From creatures loaded with the malediction of God, thou changest us, O my Jesus, to children of God.—O what grace! But it is

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by thee alone that we became such children, for without thee, we can do nothing; thou alone art the mighty, the sole-powerful! But what love! From the Glory of thy throne, whose footstool is the earth and all the firmament, from the height of thy Godhead thou debasest thyself to become man,—from the height of such glorious revelations, John, the diciple whom Jesus loved, descends to the commemoration of the happy years, in which he had lived on earth with the Word made man. "And the Word was made flesh, and "dwelt among us, and we saw his glory, the "glory as if the only begotten of the Father, "full of grace and truth."

When I read this, a feeling of sorrow comes over me, and a longing desire and lively wish to have lived at that time, when thou, O Son of God, didst converse upon earth. Ah! what are all the joys of friendship, and of the purest and most tender affection, which owes its strength and duration only to thee—what are they to the delight of that company which was enjoyed by thy disciples! An intercourse which sanctified them, and gave them strength to support so great a joy. But I will willingly acquiesce in humility, feeling but deeply my own unworthiness, and fix in my soul the words thou didst address to St. Thomas: (St. John xx. v. 29.) "Because thou hast seen me, "Thomas, thou hast believed: blessed are

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"they that have not seen, and have believed." Yes, I believe in thy word with unshaken fidelity, and will for ever believe in it. What grounds of belief are offered me by this gospel;—I will ponder it well in my heart, and this holy time of Advent place before my eyes four principal points, and draw salutary reflections from them:

I.—What would have been the fate of the whole human race without Jesus Christ?

II.—What is our condition now through Jesus Christ?

III.—What might it still become through Jesus Christ?

IV.—What it certainly will be through Jesus Christ.

* * *

But for thy appearance, O divine Saviour! the curse of thy Father would still have rested upon our degenerate earth, as by sin we were apostates from God. The earth was sunk in darkness, the true knowledge of God was disfigured by idolatry; then thou didst come, O Saviour of the world, Jesus Christ, eternal Son of the Father! God of God, Light of Light! begotten, not made,—thou camest in the form of a servant to reconcile us to thy Father,—thou, whom the patriarchs and prophets expected with inflamed desires. Grant me, O most bountiful Jesus, the spirit of true repentance, and the light from above requisite for it, whereby acknowledging my sinful

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condition, I may return to the way of virtue and justice which before I had forsaken, and in this manner profitably celebrate thy appearance in the flesh; that I may with a pure heart praise and adore thee. *Amen.*

Prayer for Christmas.

O GOD, the abundance of thy mercies is fulfilled; thou hast given him to us, and laid him in the manger, thy only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

Prostrate on the earth, I adore this great mystery of love, and pronounce with filial affection and lively faith:—*The* WORD *was made flesh, and dwelt among us.*

The Word!—here I discover and confess thy divinity;—*was made flesh!* Here I discover and confess thy humanity.

O Son of God, I adore thee with heartfelt love! I glorify thee and thy Father! I place my trust in thee, for thou art become like unto us in all things, excepting sin. I will submit to thy guidance, O Jesus, for thy Spirit maketh me a child of God,—and a child of God will I remain, in life and death. Grant me for this end, O Jesus! thy holy grace. *Amen.*

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Meditations and Prayers for the holy time of Lent

THERE is no spectacle more affecting to the mind, and none more elevating to the soul, than when we behold pure and real virtue engaged in an arduous struggle with obstacles and miseries of all kinds.

Virtue never shines so brilliantly, as when she comes forth victorious from the field of severe combat. Never is the greatness, the noble nature, the strength and constancy of the human mind so plainly and loudly declared as when, beset with innumerable obstacles, yet fearing no exertion or no difficulty, and unchangeably faithful to the good cause, it makes the most painful sacrifices to duty. And no where is this combat of the holiest and purest virtue so manifest and glorious, as in the sufferings of my divine Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

During this holy season of Lent, appointed by our Mother the holy Catholic Church, I will place before my eyes, in a more lively manner, the sufferings and death of Jesus, and fix them deeply in my heart. Yes, with serious reflection and recollection of spirit, I will entertain myself with my loving Redeemer, and consider well what he took upon himself for my deliverance. Each of these days shall be consecrated in a particular manner to the remembrance of Jesus; I will gradually follow his sufferings in silent contemplation, and

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every day penetrate my soul with some fresh scene of the torments he endured. Thereby I shall fulfil his holy will and imprint his holy image deeply on my soul. It shall always be before my eyes, it shall accompany me every where, and move me with holy violence to the most grateful love for my divine Benefactor. And inflamed with love, by the consideration of the sufferings of Jesus, then shall I cheerfully follow his divine call. May it also be my firm resolution, during this holy season of Lent, to let no day pass without making fresh progress in the consideration of the great work of our Redemption I will moreover in these days imitate the example of the apostle, with whom the wisdom of Christ crucified was the first and most important science. This meditation will not remain unproductive within me, it will increase my devotion and filial love of Jesus, it will shew me those sins for which he shed his blood in all their enormity, it will encourage me to patience and tranquility in my sufferings, and animate me in every sorrowful hour of my pilgrimage to remain true to my arduous vocation, and to shrink from no labour for the good of my brethren; and so by an attentive consideration of the passion of my most holy and divine Saviour, I shall, as he desires, become better and more truly pious. I begin the history of the Passion of Jesus, as it is written with lively interest in the holy gospel, and I will consider it attentively.

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In the passion and death of Jesus I learn—

1st.—The manifold characters of men.

2ndly.—The most admirable example of the Son of God, made man.

3rdly.—The eternal degree of the heavenly Father.

I

I learn to know what men are.

1st.—In the great world.

2ndly.—In the little school of Jesus.

I learn what men are in the great World.

1.—In the high priests who condemned Jesus to death, an injustice proceeding from hatred, jealousy, and rage for dominion.

2.—In Herod and his court, an injustice proceeding from levity and ridicule.

3.—In Pilate, an injustice from weakness, which yielded to the importunities of the high priests.

I learn what men are in the small school of Jesus.

1.—One betrays his Lord.

2.—Another denies him.

3.—The rest abandon him.

II.

I learn to know the Son of God and Man.

1st.—In his obedience to his Father.

2ndly.—In his love for man.

3rdly.—In his submission and patience, even to the end.

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III.

I learn the decree of the eternal Father.
That sufferings and death should terminate.
1st.—The Redeemer.
2ndly.—The Redemption of the sinful race of men.

* * *

O my soul! take to heart the sufferings and death of thy divine Redeemer, and become now at least penetrated with the great and salutary reflection:—Jesus suffered for thy sins!

But have I rendered myself worthy of this sanctifying institution of Redemption?

Have I, in all the relations of life, like Jesus, conscientiously discharged my duty as a man, and as a Christian?

Have I learned to know myself in a true light?

Have I not suffered myself to be deluded by a deceiving world, by the enjoyment of sensual pleasures?

Has love,—true brotherly love, been the main spring of all my actions in my communications with others?

Have I borne disgrace and injustice with Christian resignation?

Have I strenuously endeavoured to search the truths of salvation, and the holy gospel of love,—and therein to seek true knowledge?

Has my faith been conformable to the doc-

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trines of the visible church founded by Jesus? For she alone is the pillar and ground of truth.

How often have I abused the noble gift of speech, by undervaluing and detracting my fellow Christians?

Alas! has this hitherto been my case? The truth telling voice of my conscience loudly proclaims it.—It shall not, however, be so for the future. I will arise, and having put on the new man, I will become a more faithful, and a more pious Christian; and so will I make myself worthy, O Jesus, of thy sufferings and death. I will courageously and resolutely press on to the mark before me. I will, in the world, but not with the world, gratefully receive all the gifts, which thy fatherly goodness bestows upon me in such abundance, and firmly support the difficulties and pains of my state of life, in the firm hope, that thy love will one day turn them for me into joy. And if my courage at any time fails, I will look on thee, my divine Redeemer! the exalted pattern of my imitation; and then I shall learn in confusion how much thy pains and sufferings exceeded mine.

I will courageously follow thy footsteps; for thou thyself dost sweetly invite me to follow thee: *he that will come after me, let him take up his cross and follow me.* By sufferings, O Jesus, thou didst first enter into thy glory; and by sufferings alone shall I be able to arrive

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at a like glory. Every day of my life, but particularly during this holy time of Lent, appointed by thy holy Church, I will study the history of thy passion, and in that study, find thee,—receive thee into my heart, and never more depart from thee, till death shall unite me to thee, my Lord and my God! when I hope, after my course of life is finished, to be numbered among thy elect. *Amen.*

The Devotion of the Holy Way of the Cross, for the usual Stations.

Preparation.

O JESUS! my divine Master and Redeemer! I will now devoutly consider how painful was the way in which thou didst go before me to heaven. May thy Holy Spirit enlighten and strengthen me, that I may walk in thy footsteps, and follow thee faithfully in thy life and in thy sufferings; so that I may one day come to thee by a happy death, and rejoice with thee and all thy elect for eternity.

I. Station.

V. *O Jesus! let the memory of thy passion and death*

R. *Preserve me from evil, and strengthen me to good.*

O MOST innocent Jesus! thou art falsely accused, and condemned to the most ignominious death of the cross. Thou didst

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nothing but good, and wouldst only teach men how to please God, to secure their own good and eternal happiness. But on this very account because thy intentions were so good, and thou didst so firmly propound thy divine doctrines—thou must die!

* * *

I will think of thee, O divine Saviour! whenever I have to suffer without cause, or on account of my good intentions. The reward or gratitude of the world shall never be my object, when I do what is right, or benefit others. I will never go against my conscience to please men, nor for fear of them omit any good. I will only regulate myself by thy divine maxims, O Jesus! for which thou didst suffer death. Thou wilt one day be my judge, when I appear before thee!

Our Father, &c.

II. Station.

V. *O Jesus! let the memory of thy passion and death*

R. *Preserve me from evil, and strengthen me to good.*

WILLINGLY dost thou take the heavy cross upon thy shoulders, O most meek Jesus! and as a lamb not opening its mouth, thou submittest to be led to the slaughter. Thou callest upon us all; "He that will come after me, let him take up his cross."

* * *

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I cheerfully take it up: for surely God lays no more upon me, than I am able to bear. O it is good for me, that I am obliged sometimes to bear and suffer something; for by this way will God powerfully draw me to a holy resemblance with himself: this is the way to heaven! O Jesus! thou goest before me with thy cross; I follow thee, do thou strengthen me by thy grace!

Our Father, &c.

III. Station.

V. *O Jesus! let the memory of thy passion and death*

R. *Preserve me from evil, and strengthen me to good.*

HOW much hast thou taken upon thyself for my sake, O most loving Jesus! the heavy cross, the sins of the world, and my sins! How great was this burthen! But still greater was thy love for us! Thou didst firmly endure every torment, to procure for us forgiveness of sins, the grace of God, and life everlasting!

* * *

What are my sufferings, O most innocent Jesus! when compared with thine? Can I with any justice complain of that, which I have brought upon myself by my negligence, and deserved by my sins? O I will bear it for my warning and amendment. I will suffer, as a Christian, with patience and for-

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titude, all that happens to me, however painful and difficult!

Our Father, &c.

IV. Station.

V. *O Jesus! let the memory of thy passion and death*

R. *Preserve me from evil, and strengthen me to good.*

O MARY! what were the sufferings of your maternal heart, when you beheld your son in the hands of the executioners, tottering under the weight of his heavy cross, between two thieves! How must that sorrow, like a sword, have pierced your very soul! But you ever remained the humble handmaid of the Lord, with no other wish than, "Be it done to me according to his will!'

* * *

This shall be my consolation too, when I have to suffer, or see others suffer, and cannot help them; "The will of the Lord be done!' Without his permission, not a hair of our head falls to the ground. All must tend to the good of those who love God. And at last, there is reserved for us another life. O Jesus! thou thyself didst, by sufferings, enter into thy glory, and by the same way, thou bringest us to thyself.

Our Father, &c.

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V. Station.

V. *O Jesus! let the memory of thy passion and death*

R. *Preserve me fron evil, and strengthen me to good.*

O JESUS! feeble unto death, thou art helped by Simon to carry thy cross. How cheerfully should I have rendered thee the like service, since thou hast done and suffered so much for me! But thou hast said, "Whatsoever you have done to the least of my brethren, your fellow creatures, you have done it to me." * * *

Now, therefore, when I have it in my power to lighten the sorrows and burden of any one, shew any one a kindness, or assist any by counsel or consolation, I will do it as willingly and cheerfully, as if I could serve thee, O Jesus! in thy own person. I can in no other way repay thy love, than by loving all men for thy sake, and proving my love by actions whenever it is in my power.

Our Father, &c.

VI. Station.

V. *O Jesus! let the memory of thy passion and death*

R. *Preserve me from evil, and strengthen me to good.*

THE sight of thy portrait, O most afflicted Jesus! reminds me of what thou didst suffer for me. It shews me thy patience and

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fortitude, thy meekness and charity. It is my duty to walk in thy footsteps, for thou art my divine model, and the most perfect master of all virtues. I can please God in no other way, than by becoming like to thee.

* * *

Yes, I will deeply impress my heart with all that thou didst suffer, and the manner in which thou didst suffer; and to be mindful of it particularly in time of temptation and trouble. And in that awful hour, when all will vanish before me, may my last look be directed to thee, my divive Redeemer! Look, then, upon me in thy mercy, and shew me thy most lovely countenance, which is the joy of heaven.

Our Father, &c.

VII. Station.

V. *O Jesus! let the memory of thy passion and death*

R. *Preserve me from evil, and strengthen me to good.*

O JESUS! worn and weakened under the cross, thou knowest by experience what it is to suffer. Thou knowest how much man can bear. And thou knowest how to compassionate our weakness, and to support us with thy divine strength.

* * *

When I am oppressed with the weight of cares, when my courage is sinking, and my

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strength failing, when I can scarce bear up under hard labour, or violent temptation; do thou so strengthen me, O Jesus! that I may not be dejected nor faint-hearted, but put all my trust in God. God never forsakes his own, and his help is nearest, when all succour seems hopeless.

Our Father, &c.

VIII. Station.

V. *O Jesus! let the memory of thy passion and death*

R. *Preserve me from evil, and strengthen me to good.*

"WEEP not over me, but for yourselves, and your children!" Thus didst thou, O loving Jesus, address these holy souls, who wept for thee in thy most painful way of the cross! Thou art more concerned for them than for thyself! The unhappiness of thy people is more afflicting to thy heart than thy own sufferings!

* * *

I ought also to bewail my sins more than thy severe sufferings, O Jesus! I should think more how to profit by thy passion, than how much thou hast endured! O Jesus! be thou gracious and merciful to me, I am sincerely sorry for my sins! O God! forgive me for the sake of Jesus; I firmly resolve to sin no more!

Our Father, &c.

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IX. Station.

V. *O Jesus! let the memory of thy passion and death*

R. *Preserve me from evil, and strengthen me to good.*

O JESUS! how heavy is thy cross become to thee; but thy patience is not exhausted. Under the most acute sufferings thou dost rigorously accomplish our Redemption. Thou art obedient to thy heavenly Father unto death,—even unto the death of the cross!

* * *

Shall I then do only those things that are easy and pleasant? Shall I neglect to do good, when it costs me no labour, or grow weary and faint when it is difficult to discharge my duty? How could I thus imitate thee, my divine Saviour, if I would suffer nothing for the love of God and of virtue, when thou hast suffered so much, and with so much fortitude?

Our Father, &c.

X. Station.

V. *O Jesus! let the memory of thy passion and death*

R. *Preserve me from evil, and strengthen me to good.*

THY clothes were cruelly torn from thee, O most meek Jesus! In thy weak and exhausted state, instead of any comforting

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draught, thou wert presented with bitter wine and myrrh. But even this refreshment, slender as it was, thou wouldst not receive. Thou wouldst have no alleviation of thy sufferings.

* * *

When I consider thy mangled body, thy head covered with thorns, thy extreme weakness and overwhelming derilection, how can I seek forbidden joys, and be in love with pride, sensuality, and luxury? No, my Lord and Saviour! I will forsake sin, and all that leads to sin; I must forsake all evil habits and inclinations, how difficult soever it may be to forsake them. O Jesus! with thy assistance I can do all things.

Our Father, &c.

XI. Station.

V. *O Jesus! let the memory of thy passion and death*

R. *Preserve me from evil, and strengthen me to good.*

IN indescribable agony thou art suspended upon the cross, O Jesus! thy wounds are laid open, thy hands and feet bored through with nails, and all thy members stretched in the most cruel manner. Thou bearest all, thou even prayest for thine enemies, and pleadest in their excuse, that they know not what they do.

* * *

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How easily do I yield to anger and fretfulness, when the least suffering befals me. Ought I then to suffer nothing, when thou, O divine Saviour, hast suffered so much for us? Should I bear nothing from others, when they have so much to bear from me! Could I not often excuse them by concluding that they acted from ignorance, or too great haste, and not from any evil intention? And if this is not the case still I must rather pity them than feel angry with them.

Our Father, &c.

XII. Station.

V. *O Jesus! let the memory of thy passion and death*

R. *Preserve me from evil, and strengthen me to good.*

O JESUS! thou hast then offered thy life on the cross, and surrendered thy spirit in the greatest agony into the hands of thy Father! So much has it cost thee to redeem us from sin! so dear and precious to thee was the soul of man!

* * *

The sight of thy cross shall excite in me a horror of sin, for which thou didst suffer death. Assist me to die entirely to sin, and prepare myself by a pious life for a happy death. Let me in my last agony, receive consolation and support from thy sacred

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wounds In thee will I trust, when all shall forsake me. Take me then graciously to thyself, that I may ever be where thou art.

Our Father, &c.

XIII. Station.

V. *O Jesus! let the memory of thy passion and death*

R. *Preserve me from evil, and strengthen me to good.*

O MOST afflicted Mother! how great were your sufferings, when you beheld your son lie dead upon your breast, whom you bore for the salvation of the world? But how soon has the scene changed! Now you are with him in heaven, and rejoice at all the sorrows you underwent, since you behold yourself so richly rewarded for them.

* * *

It is then my duty not to look upon sufferings as signs of the divine displeasure, since even you, O full of grace! were so severely visited by them. If I suffer innocently and patiently; God will one day reward me for it. Short and transitory affliction conducts to everlasting joy!

Our Father, &c.

XIV. Station.

V. *O Jesus! let the memory of thy passion and death*

R. *Preserve me from evil, and strengthen me to good.*

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AT length, O Jesus! after a painful life and most cruel death, thou hast found rest in the grave! The grave is the end of all the troubles of this life; it is for the Christian truly the field of God, where his body, like seed in the earth, lies hidden and corrupted, but afterwards rises again to everlasting life.

* * *

I will not then fear the prospect of the grave; I will not think of death alone, but of the resurrection and everlasting life. As truly as thou, my Redeemer, art risen from the grave, and livest now, and reignest for ever; shall I also arise to everlasting life, if I so live, as to be able to hope for a good death.

Our Father, &c.

Concluding Prayer.

O Jesus! thou who didst once so profoundly humble thyself, and art now exalted above all; how glorious and honourable is thy cross, which was once so ignominious! thy cross shall remind me of thy life, and excite me to gratitude and true imitation of thee. It behoved thee by the way of the cross, to enter into thy glory. No difficulties then shall withhold me from following thee in that way which thou hast marked out for me. I will look to thee in life, in sufferings, and in death, that I may one day come to thee in thy heavenly kingdom, where thou livest and reignest with God the Father, and the Holy Ghost, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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Would forbidden joys deceive thee--
Dost thou sigh while sorrows grieve thee?
Look on God's eternal Son.

If revenge thy soul would harden,
If thy heart refuse to pardon,
Think on all thy God has done!

Is it grievous to fulfil
Duties for God's holy will?
Think that Jesus speaks to thee—
"Take thy cross and follow me!"

Prayer for Easter.

ON the third day after thy burial, thou, O eternal and only-begotten Son of the living God, didst arise by thy own divine power from the shades of death; thou didst ascend into heaven, in the glory and majesty of God, and sittest at the right hand of thy Father, whence thou wilt come to judge the living and the dead—the just and the unjust. Thy resurrection, O Jesus! is that grand event which thy holy church and all the faithful celebrate on this sacred day, with all that joy and jubilation of which the grateful heart is capable, for thy having accomplished, O Son of God, the redemption of mankind.—Yes, thy resurrection completed our Redemption. Alluluia to thee, O Jesus Christ, Son of God! By thy resurrection thou didst deliver us from the bands of everlasting death.

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Thou livest with the Father, and livest for me, and all those whom thou hast purchased by thy blood. How can I sufficiently shew thee my heartfelt gratitude, my most profound adoration, but by giving myself entirely to thee, with faith, hope, and love. O Lord! may nothing separate me from thee.—I will remain thine, and be for ever faithfully and firmly united to thee, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, blessed for all eternity. *Amen.*

Meditation and Prayer for Whitsuntide.

THIS is a joyful day—a day of exultation, in which thou, O Jesus Christ, didst establish thy visible Church upon the foundation of thy apostles, by the power and mission of the Holy Ghost; thou thyself being from eternity the corner stone. A holy and memorable day, in which I will consider the greatness of this edifice of thy Church. After thou, O Lord Jesus! hadst ascended from earth to heaven, and wert seated at the right hand of thy Father, thy love for us men induced thee to send down to us the Holy Ghost, who is united to thee and thy Father for all eternity. O love—unspeakable love of my Saviour!—I adore in the dust thy bounty and grace! The promises thou didst make to thy beloved disciples were indeed fulfilled: thou didst send them the Spirit of Truth, to lead

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them into all truth. And when he descended upon them, how did he renew thy disciples, before they renewed the whole human race! What joy, what power was given them by thy holy Spirit! what courage animated them! How did thy holy Spirit display in them, to the astonished world, the virtues of thy divine religion, and exhibit in a lively manner the powers of the world to come! Of these, a small one was the faculty imparted to thy disciples by the Holy Ghost, of speaking languages which they had never learnt;—that the sick recovered, over whom the shadow of Peter passed as he walked along;—that those fell down dead, who had lied to Peter, that is, to the Holy Ghost, who was in him;—that he could say to the lame beggar, who lay before the gate of the temple: "Silver and gold I "have none—but what I have, I give to thee; "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, "arise and walk." High as this power raised thy apostles above every thing human, these miracles themselves were only as emblems of those effects which will be produced by thy apostles in the hearts of men, if we are enlightened by faith, if the hope of everlasting life springs up in our souls, and charity, which is the soul of the religion of Jesus Christ, inflames our hearts. Strengthened by the power of the Holy Ghost, thy first followers went joyfully to suffer death for thy name. O how many shed their blood for thy holy doctrines Whoever followed thy loving invitation, was

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enlightened by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and submitted to thy sweet yoke. The people were upright—men were chaste—barbarians softened; tender virgins praised God amidst the torments of martyrdom; thousands and tens of thousands of professors of thy holy religion defied the power of tyrants, praised God, and prayed for their persecutors.

* * *

Thus by thee, O holy and divine Spirit! was the church of my Saviour established, of which thou, O eternal Son of the Father, didst say, that the gates of hell should never prevail against it. Yes, thy holy church stands, and will stand till thy second coming. O consoling faith! deeply fixed in my heart;—I can pray with confidence: Father, give me also thy holy Spirit; the spirit of sanctification, that what is unclean in me may be purified, and the fire of thy divine love enkindled within me. Spirit of Truth! teach me to walk in the path of virtue—teach me to value virtue above all earthly treasures. Spirit of Fortitude! give me strength to combat vigorously against the dangerous temptations of the flesh, and of all evil. Spirit of Wisdom! teach me to discover those perils which endanger my salvation; enlightened by thee, I shall possess the means of arriving at a thorough amendment of my whole self. Spirit of Resolution and Constancy! inspire me with a firm conviction that piety and virtue alone are the highest honours and glory of man. O di-

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vine Spirit! enlighten the darkness of my soul, in the many errors of this transitory life, admonish me in the hour when the flesh threatens to overcome the spirit. Bring me to the knowledge of myself—destroy in me all spiritual sloth. Let the fire of pure charity towards God and man be enkindled within me, that all I do and permit, may tend according to God's most holy will, to the eternal salvation of my soul. *Amen.*

Prayer for Trinity Sunday.

TO THE ONE GOD IN THREE PERSONS.

I WAS baptized in thy name, O almighty and heavenly Father!—thy name will I glorify. I was baptized in the name of thy beloved Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;—thy kingdom will I extend, I will love thee, because he died for me. I was baptized in thy name, O Spirit of God! the holy Spirit of the Father and the Son; I will accomplish thy will, which thy powerful voice makes known to me by the call of grace and the voice of my conscience. For thy honour will I live, O heavenly Father! I will ever study to imitate thy example, O Jesus! and by the virtue of the Holy Ghost, I will do all that can lead me to everlasting happiness. I will lift up my eyes to heaven, where the stars shine, where my heavenly Father dwells, the Father of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; I will lift up my heart to heaven, where thou, O Jesus Christ,

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sittest at the right hand of God, and where thou wilt come in thy glory to judge all mankind, O! thou my Mediator and Advocate; to heaven will I raise my mind and all my faculties, where thou, O Holy Spirit, unitest all the blessed in eternal love. O holy, thrice holy God! when shall I enjoy that blissful country, that region of unclouded brightness above? when shall I enter those heavenly abodes, which thou hast prepared for those who believe in thee, hope in thee, and love thee? when shall I be able to sing, in mind and heart, with all thy elect, an everlasting hymn of praise to thee, O great, holy and merciful God! Honour, adoration, praise and glory be to my God, the great and good God! Holy, holy, holy is the only God in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Prayer for Corpus Christi.

TO JESUS CHRIST IN THE MOST HOLY SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR.

HOW does my heart rejoice to be able to appear in thy holy temple, to lay before thee all my cares, to pour out my whole heart before thee, my Jesus, who art ever truly present in this most holy sacrament of the altar! O sacred presence of my God! my soul is penetrated with it; O almighty God! Creator of heaven and earth! In profound adoration

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I will meditate on this most holy mystery, and fix deeply in my soul all those great and precious benefits which come to me by this sacrament. The consideration of these will make me improve in goodness and piety. By the fall of the first man, we became apostates from thee and strangers to thy loving heart. But thou didst compassionate us men, thy children, and didst give us thy son Jesus, who brought renovation to the human race by his appearance on earth, by his doctrines, his sufferings, death and resurrection; and this renovation is the chief design of the institution of the holy sacrament of the altar. Alàs! how much is this spirit of Christ's institution and this spiritual renovation mistaken by many in our days, who are so infatuated as to degrade thy holy sacrament to a mere memorial! No, it is a banquet of the most intimate union with thee, no bare memorial; for as the nourishment and strength of bodily food unites itself with the body, so by receiving this sacrament, I become united anew to thee, O Jesus! and to my brethren, thy faithful followers. Yes, thou art deposited for me upon thy holy altar, thou art the bread of life; for by worthily receiving this, I am strengthened for everlasting life. This holy mystery is moreover a daily and solemn acknowledgment of the works of my redemption, and most perfect act of homage and protestation which I can make to thee; not with words, but by

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the power of thy holy Spirit, to live for thee in spirit and truth, to die for thee with all readiness, and to shew forth thy death in my life, till thou comest again. This mystery of thy love is to me a living pledge of my resurrection, and of everlasting life. Thou, O Jesus, givest everlasting life to those who give themselves up to thee; thou art the good shepherd, and no one can snatch thy sheep from thy hand: for thou holdest them as fast as thy Father's hand is united to thine. O let then the spirit of thy love, O Lord, be poured into my heart, and according to the fulness of thy mercies let me become of one mind with thee, when thou shalt have satiated my soul with the bread of heaven, in the most holy sacrament of the altar. Yes, my understanding bows down readily to faith, and with the eyes of humility I see thee in the blessed sacrament with thy body and blood, as God and man. And how consoling is this faith to me! In every necessity, when none else can help me, I come to thee, and thou dost willingly receive me. When I meet with trials and adversity, thou dost call out to me: come to me all you that labour, and are heavy burthened, and I will refresh you. When death tears from me those who are most dear, I come to the foot of thy holy altar, and receive from thee courage and strength to exclaim: thou didst give them to us, thou canst take them from us; thy holy will be done! When the desire of sin

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arises within me, and my passions rage, thou givest me constancy in good, and dost enable me to combat in the war against sin. When my sins bow me down to the earth, thy blessed presence in the holy sacrament of the altar restores me, and promises me forgiveness of my sins by contrition and penance. Be thou praised and adored for ever in the most holy sacrament of the altar. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

O MARY, thou highly-favoured, elect soul, full of heavenly purity! who wert assumed into heaven from the miseries of this earth; what a happy exchange was this for thee! Thou, who wert a child of man—to become so high and blessed! Thou, so little and poor upon earth, to be now so precious in the sight of God, so honoured and favoured before the Most High! Thou, a daughter of Israel, didst become the mother of the world's Redeemer, of whose kingdom there is no end, and whose power knows no bounds. Thou holy Mary, so devout in spirit, so holy in thy conduct to the end of thy life, and now so glorious before heaven and earth. How deeply didst thou share the sorrows of thy Son;—how much hadst thou to bear of the miseries of this mortal life; and at length the hour arrived, which released thee from all the suffer-

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ings of the body, and from all anguish of soul. Yes, all tears were wiped away from thine eyes, and thy holy soul was filled with joy without end or measure. Yes, thou blessed among women! thou wert the first and most noble of christians, the most humble adorer of our Redeemer, the kind mother and friend of those who love thy Son—and therefore the creatures of earth praise thee, the adorers of thy Son honour thee; the angels of heaven venerate thee, the assembly of the faithful praise thee; thou art glorified near the throne of God—with thee is the love of the Most High, the joys of heaven are thy reward, and a blissful eternity the portion of thy inheritance.

Thus hath God recompensed thy fidelity, O thou full of grace! Thus hath God rewarded thy pious patience, which continued to the end. O holy God! how great and glorious art thou in Mary! O Mary! thou most holy of the daughters of men, who have ever lived upon our earth; how happy, how full of celestial happiness art thou—and wilt thou be for ever! O Mary, thou Mother of Mercy! pray for me, a poor sinner, now, and at the hour of my death. *Amen.*

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Sentiments

Of a Pious Child before the Picture of his holy Mother.

(Written by the Prince---not in any former edition.)

O THOU, supremely blest,
Unsullied glorious rest
On thy bright seat above:
Our sighs to thee ascend,
Thy gracious help extend,
Mother of beauteous love!

In thy maternal arms,
Full of celestial charms,
Rests Jesus, sweet and mild;
His eye looks down with thine
On us; and light divine
Beams from thy lovely child!

O that for us be made
A place by thy kind aid
Near thy beloved Son;
When his redeeming grace
Shall all our sins efface,
And Virtue's crown be won.

His heavenly voice we hear
Bid all-through thee draw near
To reign with him above;
Thy voice invites us too,
His word to hear and do
And follow him in love.

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How sweet and mild thy voice,
O be my happy choice
This day before thee made;
May thy dear Son by me
Be ever, as by thee,
Loved and in all obeyed!

(Translation of the lines under the Picture.)

Mother! to thee myself I yield
Console me in the hour of pain,
Be thou my life's support and shield
And by me in my death remain.

Prayer for the Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

O MARY! Mother of God, blessed among women, through thy kind intercession may I have access to thy beloved son, Jesus, whom thou didst bring forth for us, that he might be gracious and merciful to me. Thro' the unspotted purity of thy most loving heart, obtain for me the gift of purity of soul and body. Through thy humility so pleasing in the sight of God, obtain for me an humble mind; that my conduct may never be disgraced by the pride of life. Through the blessed fruit of thy womb, obtain for me fruitfulness of virtue, and all profitable works, that I may be well-pleasing to thy divine Son. Through the favour thou didst find with God,

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obtain for me grace and forgiveness of my many and grievous sins. Through thy invincible patience in sufferings, and deep sorrow beneath the cross of thy beloved Son, obtain for me an unshaken confidence in divine Providence, in all the tribulations of this life. Through the calm and pious resignation with which thou didst receive every word from the mouth of thy divine Son, obtain for me the grace to be a zealous hearer, and faithful observer, of his divine word. Through the benevolent maternal heart, which thou didst shew to all the children of men, obtain for me the fire of charity both for God and men. Through the floods of tears shed beneath the cross of thy Son, and the bitter anguish thou didst feel at his death, obtain for me the strength and assistance of my God in the hour of my departure, when the terrors of death and judgment will overwhelm me. O be thou ever a kind and loving intercessor for me in life and death. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Feast of Saint Joseph, March 19th.

O FATHER of men! thou leadest us mortals in a loving and wonderful manner. Happy are they who give themselves up to thy amiable guidance! Thine is the guidance of unspeakable wisdom, unbounded love and astonishing omnipotence. Thou often per-

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mittest afflictions to befal thy most faithful servants; but thou dost not forsake them, and thy help is always at hand for them. Thou didst permit Joseph, a just and virtuous man, to be under the most afflicting circumstances, which could happen to an upright and noble-minded man; but thou wert at hand to assist him in thy own good time. Grant that his example may be a powerful incitement to us, to fulfil thy will, O God, in simplicity of heart, with fidelity and uprightness; and that when we meet with unmerited sufferings, when the accomplishment of thy holy will leads us into difficulties; or when our neighbours, and even our friends and relations give us subject of complaint, we may think of the example of St. Joseph, and imitate him in filial confidence in thy fatherly assistance, and resignation to thy most holy will, in the love of our neighbour, and all those virtues which made St. Joseph so great, so amiable and so glorious; and that in the end our death may be like to his. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Feast of any Saint.

O MOST bountiful Father! who promisest consolation, help and deliverance to all those who fly to thee with filial confidence and sincere supplication, grant us through the intercession of this thy saint the grace ever to seek thy most holy will with sincerity in

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our most serious concerns, and to lay before thee in prayer, O Father of mercies! all our necessities, and imperfections. For we know that thou wilt not leave our justice unrewarded, nor our desires unaccomplished; that thou makest all that befals us conduce to our good, that thou hast only our happiness in view, that thou knowest all our infirmities, and only permittest our sorrows for our probation and our greater good, to make us mindful of our sins, and prepare us for that everlasting happiness, which is the end of our creation, the term of our hope, and the recompence of our virtue. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Feast of a Holy Virgin, Widow, or holy Woman.

O MOST bountiful Father! we beseech thee to grant us thy powerful assistance, that after the example of thy holy St. N. we may be diligent in fulfilling our duties in thy service, ready to assist our neighbour, indulgent to his failings, severe to ourselves, and contented with all that happens to us. Remove from us all malignant joy, all disposition to censure, all coldness, all unfriendly and peevish behaviour, and all that might weaken in us the love of our neighbour. Suppress that disposition to softness and indolence, which prevents us from discharging faithfully the duties of our calling, which leads us to a

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sensual indulgence, withholds us from a right use of temporal goods, from charitableness and alms-deeds, nourishes our self-love, and makes us incapable of self-denial, and the subduing of our passions;—and grant that the example of this thy servant, whose memory we celebrate, may strengthen and encourage us in the holy resolution to serve thee by the observance of thy commandments. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Feast of All Saints.

I PRAISE thee, O God! in thy saints, for having created them, and given them thy abundant grace. Thou knowest the merits of all thy friends. Thou didst ever present them with the blessings of thy grace. Thou didst foresee them for thy beloved before the beginning of the world. Thou didst choose them out of the world, and draw them to thyself by many attractions, and didst pour celestial consolations into their souls. Strengthened by thee, they persevered in good—and how affectionately did they crown their virtue! With what unspeakable love dost thou love them all! Yes, O thou who art holy and incomprehensible! I praise thee in thy saints. Thou hast delivered them, O Jesus! from darkness, sin and death, and brought them to thy kingdom—the kingdom of light, of life and love.

O ye beloved saints! you are as the fairest flowers in the garden of my God, where the

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grace of God, and the spirit of Christ, our Redeemer, reign within you. O happy company of God! You are seen—you love—you flourish in God's eternity; you shine in the truth of God, you exult in the good things of God. I will fix my abode with you on high; I will leave this earth in affection, and mix in your holy society, and with you become one heart, one soul, one continued homage of praise to God.

Thither I direct my eyes; to that abode on high, and to you I lift up my heart, to you, O ye saints of God! I direct my prayers. O that they may be directed in one everlasting alleluia, with you; and to your God and mine—to your Redeemer and mine—to your Holy Spirit and mine: glory, praise and benediction be to God and the Lamb, from eternity to eternity! *Amen.*

Prayer to our Holy Angel-Guardian.

O THOU messenger of the Lord! holy Angel-guardian, given me by God for my protection! How do I rejoice in the Lord my God, who has given you to watch by my side! O how affecting is that declaration of Jesus, that the angels rejoice more at the conversion of one sinner doing penance, than upon ninety-nine just. This your holy participation in my spiritual improvement, and in my earnest endeavour to amend, encourages me never to stand still in this important af-

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fair. Your application to accomplish the will of God, shall be an example for my imitation in all situations and difficulties of life, to animate me to accomplish the most holy will of my good God. O that in this I may diligently imitate you, my holy angel-guardian! Yes, I will do all in my power to fulfil the will of my God on earth, as the blessed do in heaven. O ye angels of God! you are appointed by our loving Father to minister to us poor mortals; this fills me with sentiments of gratitude to thee, O holy God! and teaches me know the value of my being. It is surely a great honour to be a human creature, since you, O ye blessed spirits, are appointed to take charge of our salvation. O let the reverence I shew to you, my holy angel-guardian, be an encouragement to me to be courageous in the combat against sin; for you, blessed spirits, fight by my side. O stand by me in the hour of need, obtain for me the grace and mercy of God, particularly at the hour of death. And after this life, conduct my soul before the throne of the Most High, and obtain for me, a poor sinner, grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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PRAYERS

For different States and Occasions.

Renewal of our Baptismal Vows.

BY the holy sacrament of Baptism, thou didst give me, O Lord, a title to the kingdom of heaven; by the reception of this sacrament, I entered into the true church of Christ, and took upon myself the sacred obligation of complying with thy holy precepts. Great is the grace of which I became a partaker by the holy sacrament of baptism; but great also is the obligation which I have taken upon myself. I will consider well the unspeakable favour conferred upon me by the reception of this holy sacrament. Washed, purified from all my sins, from the original corruption, by thy grace, O God!—without any merit of mine, washed in thy blood, O Jesus, which flowed on the cross for the reconciliation of fallen man—I became thereby possessed of that sanctifying grace, which enables me to become a new creature and one of thy children. Moreover, I became thy inheritance, O Jesus! and I no longer belong to the unhappy children of Eve—I am become a citizen of heaven, and possess the most secure hope of eternal life. O! I will not undervalue this

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prerogative of my high dignity; I will not forfeit this privilege by sin, for any worldly good or any momentary pleasure. No, my Lord! no trouble shall be to me too great, no sufferings too severe, for the pure preservation of this blessing; and since by baptism I have access to all the treasures of grace in thy holy church, and am entitled to partake of all her holy sacraments, those fountains of grace for our eternal salvation; I will use them for the good of my soul, that I may be strengthened by them, and enabled to remain faithful to my baptismal engagements. May these holy vows be ever sacred to me and inviolate, by which I swore fidelity to the standard of Christ. In the name of the most holy Trinity, in which I was baptized, I will think, speak and act, for God's honour and the salvation of my soul—by that I will gain everlasting life, I will walk in the humility of Christ, in faith, in devotion and holy love, till at length my Lord shall crown me and make me happy for ever, among the blessed inhabitants of heaven with endless joy and felicity. *Amen.*

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A Prayer and Thanksgiving for having received the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation.

O GOD! how joyful and full of blessings for eternity is that day, in which by a worthy reception, as I humbly hope, of the holy sacrament of confirmation, I received the power and virtue of the Holy Ghost, and was strengthened in the faith of the divine word of thy Son, which is deposited for us in thy holy Church. O Lord! for this favour my heart returns thee thanks with ardent devotion. O my God, I pledge myself anew to remain faithful to thy commandments, to devote myself entirely to thy holy will—and may thy holy Spirit, the author of all good, give to my feeble will his divine perfection! O God, how many happy hours didst thou give me to enjoy in my youth—how tenderly didst thou instruct me in all necessary knowledge of thy law. O let tears of joy flow from my eyes to testify to thee my most lively gratitude. Thou wilt also in the future years of my life, give me strength and courage by the voice of my conscience and the calls of thy holy religion, not to waver in the many dangers to which my faith in thee, O Son of God, exposes me in this world. Strengthened by faith, I will ever remain thine, ever choose the way of truth, do thy holy will, become ever more and more

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holy and pleasing in thy sight; I will never forsake thee—nothing shall separate me from thee—for thou art my God, and my only confidence. Thou art ever faithful—grant that I may ever remain true and devoted to thee—and constant to the covenant I made to thee, when I received the holy sacrament of confirmation—before thee and thy angels, and all thy holy saints in heaven, who by virtue of faith have gloriously finished the course in which thou didst call them to run, from eternity to eternity. *Amen.*

Prayer for the holy Church of God.

O LORD! grant to thy holy, apostolic Church increase and prosperity; that all its members may improve in the knowledge of the truth, in faith in thee and thy Son Jesus Christ. O Lord! let that happy time arrive, when all people shall believe in the gospel of thy Son, and there may be one fold and one shepherd. Let our erring brethren come to the knowledge of thy eternal truths, who blinded by the love of novelty, are become strangers to thy unerring word, preserved in thy holy Church. O Lord! bring them back to the one fold of the one shepherd. Glorify thy holy Church, and give to her worthy bishops and priests—bless their station and duties, plant in their hearts light, truth, virtue, and charity. Give thy blessing to their labours, and let their word, which is in reality

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thine, fall upon good soil. Give us also, O Lord, pious and wise teachers, full of the holy fear of God, who may be to us faithful guides to conduct us to thee, and exemplify in their lives and actions all that they teach with their mouths. May their blessed instructions animate us to execute thy word, and in all occurrences of life to lay up in our hearts what they teach from the chair of eternal truth.—When they exhort, entreat, and admonish us, we will joyfully and willingly follow them.—Preserve and govern our chief pastor N. that he may long guide the bark of St. Peter, and thy power and grace may be visible in him. Preserve and bless our bishop N. that by following his voice, we may be and remain good sheep of the best of shepherds, Jesus Christ. Reward the pains, the labours and sacrifices of our beloved pastors, and may we long possess them, that they make thy blessed word ever fructify within us. *Amen.*

Prayer for gaining Indulgencies.

O GOD, most holy Father! thou who art justice itself, and before whom nothing sinful can appear: who dost not leave unpunished the crimes and transgressions of men, and yet full of mercy and love, art always ready to extend thy paternal arms, to receive again repentant sinners, when they bring forth worthy fruits of penance; spare me for the

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sake of thy beloved Son Jesus Christ, who for us sinners shed his blood, and delivered himself up to death. Most merciful God! from the bottom of my heart I detest the sins of my whole life! with the bitterest affliction and sorrow, I now feel but too deeply, how much punishment I have deserved for them—but I trust with firm confidence, by the infinite merits of my divine Saviour, and for the sake of this thy beloved Son, that thou wilt be gracious and merciful to me. O Jesus Christ, Son of God! who hast received all power from thy Father, thou hast appointed a chief pastor in thy holy Church, to feed and govern thy flock, which thou hast so dearly purchased by thy blood. Directed by thy holy Spirit, he has this day granted to all contrite and true believing sinners, the remission of all temporal punishment, in thy most holy name. O Jesus! my only mediator with thy heavenly Father, let me be reckoned in the number of these truly penitent sinners; that I may partake of this precious grace of full remission of all the the temporal punishment I have merited. In faith and confidence, in thy infinite love to us, I pray, to thee that thy holy church may be extended and glorified; remove from her all schisms and dissensions, let all her members be of one mind, let the light of thy gospel, I beseech thee, O holy God, be carried to all the nations of the earth. Enlighten and strengthen with the fulness o the Holy Ghost

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the supreme head of thy holy Church, Pope N. as also all the bishops and ecclesiastical superiors; that by holiness of doctrine and holiness of life, they may promote by every means the propagation of the Christian and Catholic faith. Grant us peace, that precious gift of thy grace: unite the hearts and minds of kings and princes: that they may govern thy people in prosperity and benediction, and we may all praise and pray to thee in peace and unity from eternity to eternity. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Rogation Days for the Fruits of the Earth.

O GOD, the giver of all good gifts, we have sown our seed, but if thou givest not thy blessing, our labour is in vain, and we shall want our necessary sustenance. We have sown in humble confidence of receiving a manifold increase: thou wilt not deceive us, thou wilt deal with us with more than parental tenderness. If at any time thou hast visited lands and countries with sterility, thou hast provided other means, and disposed the hearts of benevolent neighbours to divide their abundance. But we trust, O heavenly Father, that thou wilt spare us this severe scourge. We beseech thee to give prosperous weather to our crops, that they may thrive and come to maturity. We submit implicitly to thee, thou knowest best what is for their prosperity: and

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oftentimes when shortsighted man has doubted of the increase, thou hast given afterwards a plentiful harvest. Thou hast given unfathomable powers to nature, which is often most productive, when we see most reason to apprehend. So wilt thou give rain, wind and sunshine in their proper season, and crown this year also with thy blessing. But if thou hast otherwise decreed, we will humbly leave our destiny in thy hands: thou wilt find ways and means to deliver us in all our necessities.

I will take example from the seed we have sown. As it is sown in the earth that it may increase, so ought I also to improve with the graces I have received from thee. As we look forward to an abundant harvest, so ought I to look forward to futurity, where I shall reap, what I have sown here upon earth; where if I have here practised virtue, I shall not fail to gather the fruits of it. As the grain decays in the earth, to come forth again with renovated beauty, so must I, through death, enter into new, and everlasting life.—What an encouraging symbol for me! What confidence does it inspire, since it represents my hopes of heaven! A pledge that thou hast created me to enjoy a happy eternity. *Amen.*

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On New Year's Day.

THY mercy and truth, O God, endure for ever; but every day is new to us, and every day thou dost bless us with good things. If I look back to the year that is past, every day exhibits fresh proofs of thy love.

From how many dangers hast thou preserved me! How many misfortunes hast thou kept far from me! When I was perplexed with difficulties, thou wert ever my counsellor, my helper and comforter. The corporal and spiritual benefits I have received from thee, are innumerable.

Thou permittest me this day to begin a new year—whether I shall see the end of it, is known only to thee, thou Lord of life and death! How many have not lived to see this day, who but yesterday exulted at the prospect of it! And thus I am by no means sure that I shall see the evening of this day. How many reasons have I then to make the beginning of it available to my salvation, to humble myself before thee, and to acknowledge my iniquities. Yes, O my Father! many times have I rendered myself unworthy of thy grace; but pardon me I beseech thee, and call me not away in the midst of my sins.

If it shall please thee to prolong my days, grant me with the new year fresh strength to pursue the way of thy justice! Let me walk conscientiously before thee, in thy holy fear,

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and bring forth works of virtue. If thou hast sufferings in store for me for the future, grant me courage to bear them well; but if thou hast decreed to give me happiness and joy, O let me not be over elated, so as to forget thee. If the pleasures of the world allure me, let me not give ear to their seductive voice, but let me fix my eyes upon those true and everlasting joys, which thou hast prepared for those that love thee.

Give ear also, O God! to my prayers for my neighbours. Give thy blessing to every profitable undertaking, and every lawful profession; have mercy on the sick, the desolate, the poor, the widows and orphans; give prosperity to all around us: be thou the comforter of all who need consolation, and give help to all who call upon thy name. Preserve our land in peace; let true brotherly love animate the hearts of the great and the lowly, and let unanimity every where prevail. Bless thy word, and its holy teachers, and may it bring forth fruit a thousand-fold, that the heavens and earth may be renovated by it. Extend still further the knowledge of truth and goodness; and may this knowledge produce a thorough change in mankind. And when our pilgrimage is ended, bring us through death to that life, where there is no change of times, and where we shall ever thank and adore thee. *Amen.*

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Prayer on our Birth Day.

I LOOK up to thee, and adore thee, O my God! on this day *** years ago, thou didst give me life and a soul which is immortal: I became a human being, the image and likeness of thee, and I feel happy in the grateful remembrance of this blessing. My spirit is lost in adoration and astonishment, when I consider myself and reflect on the being I possess. By what wonderful means, utterly unknown to me, was I animated in my mother's womb! I learned to feel, to hear, to see, and afterwards to speak—I learned to know the signs of my parents' will;—by the holy sacrament of baptism I was consecrated to thee, and received the happy privilege of becoming thy child. In the course of my life, thou hast given me abundant opportunities of acquiring knowledge. Thus I learned the knowledge of thy commandments and my duties. —How many joys didst thou bestow on my youth! Often when I was going astray, thou didst sweetly call me back. And when I had the misfortune to offend thee, my most loving Father, by sin, thou didst raise me up again by the consoling words of my spiritual guide. By such tender ways hast thou led me from my birth till this hour. I adore in astonishment the dispositions of thy providence.— But this memorable day shall be to me espe-

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cially a day of benediction, on which I will commend my life and my happiness anew to thee. With confidence I cry out to thee—forsake me not in my declining years—forsake me not, poor, frail and weak mortal as I am. How much longer I shall yet continue upon earth I know not, but with humble hope, I wholly abandon myself to thee. I shall have nothing to fear from the prospect of eternity, if I lead a pious and holy life during the days of my pilgrimage. I will consecrate this my birth-day, by approaching to the holy altar of my divine Redeemer, with worthy preparation and spiritual recollection, and full of adoration, faith and love, to receive his precious body and blood. Thus again united with thee, O Jesus, I will implore of thee strength and blessing for the time to come, that I may bring my labours here on earth to a happy termination, and one day receive the reward of them on high. O my Lord, say I beseech thee with love and tender mercy—'So be it done unto thee." *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Saint's Day of our Name.

I BEAR, O Lord, the name of one of thy beloved saints—it was given to me in the holy sacrament of baptism, that I might walk in his (or her) footsteps, and live as he lived, in order to become what he now is. *(Here*

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consider one of the most remarkable virtues in the life of your holy patron.) In the number of thy saints made perfect, who are now in thy glorious presence, I behold weak ones rendered strong and resolute by thy grace—sinners brought back to the paths of virtue—young men who preserved unsullied the pearl of innocence—virgins, who followed the Lamb in purity of life—aged persons, who bore the afflictions of advanced age with Christian resignation—martyrs of Christ, who for his sake joyfully gave up their blood and lives to death, to exchange this miserable life for a crown of everlasting glory—bishops and priests, who extended the kingdom of Christ, and his gospel—monks and solataries, who in holy retirement renounced the joys of the world, that in the contemplation of the goods of heaven, which are laid up for us, they might never lose sight of the one thing necessary: God and his kingdom, Christ and his doctrines, and his death. O! how many examples does thy holy spouse the church, propose to me as models of imitation! O Lord, I will celebrate this day in spirit and truth, by praising thee with filial affection, and endeavouring to imitate the saint of my name, and thereby become pleasing in thy sight. O glorious saint N. obtain for me, through the merits of Jesus Christ, the grace, strength and blessing of God, for this purpose. *Amen.*

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Prayer for the Last Day of the Year.

Appropriate also for an Evening Meditation.

A WHOLE year then is gone; and with the coming morning, I begin a new year In a wonderful manner and full of love, hast thou my God conducted me through this year. Every succeeding day was a fresh proof, that thou, O God, art my father, and the father of us all. What gratitude, what joyful adoration do I owe to thee! And how shall I begin to express all the feelings of my heart, which the remembrance of the multitude and greatness of thy benefits excites in my soul! But how does this remembrance cover me with confusion, when I consider how often in years past I have been ungrateful to thee, how often I have neglected to fulfil those duties, to which thy fatherly love had obliged me. On this day, I will recount the past year in thy presence—I will seriously put these questions to my conscience:

1. Am I become better or more sinful?

2. Have I advanced or gone backward in the knowledge of the one thing necessary and of my holy faith?

3. How should I now appear at thy judgment, if it should please thee to call me by death from this earth?

O my God! how am I confounded when I look back on the year that is past! but it shall

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be far otherwise with me in future. This day I take thee to witness, O omniscient God! the promise and resolution I make, to let no day pass of the new year upon which we now enter, without raising up my mind and spirit to thee in filial supplication.

I will fully and conscientiously discharge all the duties imposed upon me by my holy faith.

I will prove this my faith by works of charity.

I will never stand still in the way of perfection, but ever move forwards.

These are my sincere intentions, and thou my God wilt give me the will to accomplish them. Yes, in this new year thou wilt be in a more especial manner my father. Grant to me and all that are dear to me the blessing of health. Give me neither poverty nor riches, but only what I have need of every day. Grant to all men, my brethren, happiness, health and blessing. In all sufferings let me never forget, that thou disposest all that happens to men with consummate wisdom; and that nothing can happen in this world which is not permitted by thee for our good. Even in the hour of affliction thou affordest me the occasion of honouring thee as my best father, with perfect confidence. Grant that not only to-morrow, but every future day of my life may be to me most important; since all things are hastening on to return no more, and I know not even if I shall live till to-morrow. To

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thee I commend myself and all that belong to me—for thou alone knowest what is good and profitable for me. Grant me what thou pleasest, for the sake of thy only begotten Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Prayer of Parents for their Children.

O GOD! the children thou hast given me are thy own; they are the best gift with which thy goodness has blessed me. Preserve them, O God of goodness!—Help me, O God, and assist my honest endeavours to bring them up for thee. For this undertaking, and for the accomplishment of this duty, grant me patience, light and strength. Grant me a beam of thy divine light to enable me to love them with tenderness; and seriously to correct their faults; that I may know how to punish and reward them in due season. Grant my children a love of learning, and a holy love and desire of thee and of all good. O God! preserve their hearts from pride, obstinacy and pernicious idleness. May they be blessed with the knowledge of the truths of eternal salvation. Instructed well in thy holy gospel, may they truly know thee, and do thou guide them and preserve them from all evil;—O Lord, do thou conduct them, strengthen their holy faith, preserve them from scandals! and when the storms of seduction threaten these innocent plants, be thou their support and confidence. May they have thee before their

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eyes, O God, in all situations of life. May they ever follow sincerely the voice of conscience. Let their tender hearts beat only for virtue and rectitude. O good God, let me live to derive much happiness from all the children whom thou hast given me, do thou form them to become pious Christians, and not in name only but in deed, disciples of thy Son Jesus Christ. O Lord! I will leave them at a future day to choose that state of life, to which thou hast given them strength and talents; that by the good they do in their several stations, I may derive joy and consolation in my old age, if thou permittest me to attain it. O God! I well know and feel my own weakness, and all that is wanting to enable me to bring up good children. But I will do all in my power faithfully to discharge so holy a duty: grant to my good will thy divine co-operation. O what a consoling thought for me, to be able to say on my death bed: O God! thou dist give me children—I have well dischatged my duty towards them: I here commend them to thee—I have made them pious christians, that they may become citizens of everlasting life in heaven. With this I will look forward to futurity, and with hope and confidence daily beseech thee to bestow upon me every grace and blessing. Bless my children, bless me and all mine with thy choicest blessings—in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

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Prayer of Children for their Parents.

O HEAVENLY Father! thou hast given me good and loving parents, who take care of my soul and body, and give me instruction as well as food and clothing. I am sensible, and will think how much anxiety my parents have always had for me from my birth to this hour. O how much do my dear parents love me! And I can never sufficiently repay their love. But I can thank thee with my whole heart, O God, my heavenly father, and my parents for all their love and care, and the many sleepless nights they have watched over me. Yes, I promise thee my God! that I will love my parents with a pure heart, I will be submissive and obedient to them, never intentionally give them uneasiness, quickly repent of every fault, and shew a ready compliance with all that they command me. I will never contradict them, I will accommodate myself to their humours, and support their weaknesses with peace and patience, for they are only human creatures liable to imperfections. I will honour them till death deprives me of them. O Lord! do thou reward them, and may every thing be prosperous to them upon earth. O Father! reward them here, by a long, healthy and happy life. I will be the support of their old age. As Tobias took care of his father, I will tend

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them with filial affection; and when the hour arrives in which thou wilt call them home to thee, do thou sweetly close their eyes, and conduct them to that eternal happiness, promised to us by our Lord Jesus Christ, thy Son. *Amen.*

Prayer of Subjects for their Sovereign.

O GOD! may our gracious sovereign ever enjoy thy powerful assistance—may his eyes be ever directed to thee—and to thee may his heart be ever consecrated. Great and responsible is the burthen of his government. O thou who art eternal! govern him, and make him thy willing servant. Grant him always thy fatherly grace—and grant it also to the officers of his government. Let wisdom and justice direct his counsels. Let him never listen to the voice of calumniators—give him a true knowledge of thyself. Let him not trust in himself, but in thee alone, who art goodness itself. Grant peace to him and his territories. Let the welfare of his subjects be his glory, and their blessing his joy. Preserve him in life, and make him happy after this life with a crown in heaven, through thy beloved Son, our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

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Prayer for our Friends.

O GOD of Goodness! what a happiness for me to have a friend, who is united with me in a holy friendship, and loves me truly and with heartfelt affection. A friend who shares my joys and sorrows—to whom I can say all that I feel, whom I am bound to love and value, who by his close union with thee, my God, and by his virtuous conduct and conversation, teaches me the true value of life, and is united with me in the earnest endeavour to attain to that life which will never end. Preserve him to me, O Lord, for my edification; let us have but one thought, will, inclination and action—namely, to please thee. All our endeavours are for the improvement of our lives, we are not united by the desire of transitory pleasures, but by real affection; and this is to us a fortaste of pure and heavenly joys. Preserve this friend of my heart, enlighten him for the performance of every duty—strengthen the foundations of his faith, strengthen him in the power of thy might, and may he remain stedfast in piety and virtue.—Keep him far from error, O Lord, and grant me light and discretion, to warn him when he appears to go astray. Preserve him also for me, when I am in danger of falling—and how easily do I fall, poor, weak and mortal that I am! Give him then thy tender love for me;

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that he may stretch out his brotherly hand, and bring me back to thee. Let us always be united in holy friendship and become wiser, more virtuous and more perfect—let all flattery be far from both; let us both be honourable, open and sincere. Let nothing dissolve the bands of our friendship. In joy and sorrow, unite us ever more and more closely.—And when at length I am called away by death, and he is separated from me, then let us, still united in spirit by love, pray for each other—let him happily finish his course—crown him in a better world with joy and glory—and after my mortal course is run, lead me to him, where united again for ever, we may praise and adore thee our God in the land of peace and everlasting repose. *Amen.*

Prayer for our Enemies.

TO merit thy approbation, O God, and to prove by actions that I am a Christian, and desire to lead a life of virtue, I must sweetly and freely forgive my enemy, who is even bent on afflicting and oppressing me. If it afflicts me to be hated by him; still I will cry out to thee with my whole soul: O Lord forgive him! for he knows not what he does. Let him as a man and a christian remain ever dear to me; I will never give him uneasiness. O God, full of patience and forbearance, who lettest thy sun shine and rain fall upon the

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good and the wicked, give him also thy benediction. Truly I should be unworthy of thy mercy and grace, which thou so lovingly bestowest upon me, if I did not forgive my enemy with a willing and chearful heart. Let all hatred and revenge be far from my heart; I will give pleasure to my enemy by acts of kindness, and by these endeavour to gain him. I will never wish him evil. And should this my friendly conduct bring him over to me again, I willingly offer him the hand of peace, and will give it to him with brotherly affection, free from all art and dissimulation. So doing, I shall have no cause to fear at thy judgment, and with lively confidence, I may hope to enjoy thy love, and remember with consolation the assurance of thy divine Son; forgive, and you shall be forgiven. *Amen.*

Prayer for Fidelity to our Vocation.

O MY God! thy holy will calls all to an active and useful life, and to such a life thou hast united substantial advantages and manifold delights. I will faithfully follow my vocation, far from all disgraceful idleness!—I will never consider the duties of industry as an oppressive burden. No, they are to me the means and the sure way to arrive at greater perfection. Yes, O God, I reverence thy wise and good regulations throughout the world.—I feel and acknowledge how strongly they

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oblige me to industry and fidelity to the duties of my vocation. O that I may never forget these duties, and ever faithfully discharge them! All my abilities and powers, all my gifts and talents are favours of thy goodness, which thou hast entrusted to me to be conscientiously employed. I must one day give an account to thee for them. Thou hast directed me in this world to this state of life, and given me certain occupations for the good of thy children upon earth. O that I may worthily correspond with thy appointment, and thereby promote the good of others. I have manifold obligations towards my fellow men. I cannot dispense with their help and support, and I daily receive services from them. I will return these good offices, and endeavour all I can, by diligence and fidelity, to become useful to them in my condition and calling. Still I am but an instrument in the hand of thy divine providence, to contribute as an individual creature to the great work of the happiness of mankind; and the more faithfully I labour in my vocation, the more indefatigably I do that good, which I can and ought to do in my sphere of action; the more have I reason to rejoice, and cherish in my soul the consoling testimony that I am fulfilling on earth thy most holy will. O God! thou workest from eternity to eternity; thy power is unlimited, and its productions immense; and all that thou dost is and produces life, joy and happiness. O

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may I by the best and most diligent use of all that I am, have and can, become more and more like to thee, my heavenly father, and by christian industry and unwearied fidelity to my vocation on earth, prepare myself for higher and more important occupations, which thou wilt give me one day in a better life, through thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Prayer for a Student.

THINE is the time of my youth, O God of my life! I will dedicate it to thee, and devote myself entirely to a life of piety, O loving Father! strengthen this resolution within me for the sake of thy holy love, and give me thy holy blessing, to accomplish it faithfully. Thou art my father—I am thy child, and let it be my greatest joy to love thee alone. Purify all my earthly inclinations with the fire of heavenly love. Enlighten my understanding to know thee aright, and thus to become like to thee. Teach me to enrich my understanding with wisdom; for time flows rapidly away, and I so earnestly desire to consecrate to thee the first fruits of my days: that when the evening of life draws on, I may look back with peace upon the days I have spent. O Lord! I will now do all I can to please thee—and remove far from me every thing that might offend thee. Preserve my youthful heart from proud self conceit. Let modesty

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and innocence be the fairest ornament of my soul. Give me a mild and gentle spirit; I will never think ill of others, but always remain in humility. I will never give ear to the alluring voice of idleness. Preserve my eyes from all unchaste desires—far be my heart and will from the snares of forbidden pleasures.—I will avoid all company which is likely to be pernicious to me, and may I fear and fly from all the pleasures of sin more than from death. Grant me success in all my studies, prosper by thy light and grace all my scientific pursuits, and let me with joy and pleasure enquire after truth. Give strength and blessing to my beloved teachers, and bless all their undertakings. Make them happy in their labours by a harvest of benediction; unite me more closely to them by the ties of affection and confidence, reward the labours they undergo for my instruction and improvement, and may I one day meet them on high, where our knowledge will be understanding, and our faith vision. *Amen.*

Prayer for Young Women.

O GOD! I am thy child, and I can work out my salvation only by loving thee with my whole heart. Make me in all things like to thee. Watch over me in soul and body.—In all things my sole endeavour shall be to please thee. I will ever keep myself from pride and all self-seeking. Let modesty be

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my ornament, and virtue my beauty. I will faithfully perform in meekness and silence the daily labours which thou hast imposed upon me. I will praise thee in filial humility of heart, I will never despise my neighbour, I will ever labour with restless exertion for my advancement in virtue. I will carefully guard my youthful heart from all love of idleness.—Studied pomp, unnecessary and idle show are not pleasing to thee. For thy holy will is that I should clothe myself with modesty and confusion. In my solitary hours I will raise up my mind with heartfelt joy to thee, my God—I will think of the transitory nature of all earthly things, and often repeat to my heart that important truth: death will deprive thee of all; but it will give thee all if thou spendest thy life in the practice of piety. I will never squander away the precious time of my life in empty trifling, my only endeavour shall be to spend it profitably. May my eyes never enkindle an impure flame in my heart, and may no unbecoming levity disgrace my conversation. Let innocence and a good irreproachable calling be ever my glory. I will arm my looks with wholesome severity, whenever my innocence is threatened by any danger. I will avoid all company which is in any way dangerous, and with christian joy fly from the wanton pleasures of the world, as dangerous to my salvation. Let me find pious friends, who may all be of one pure heart, and with these

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unite me in innocence. Let me rejoice in the company of those, by whose example I may become pure and mild, and possess true joy of soul, that I may hereafter enjoy the everlasting society of heaven, with thee—thy beloved Son Jesus Christ—the blessed Virgin Mary, and all thy beloved Saints. *Amen.*

Prayer for Married Persons.

O GOD! thou didst in a wonderful manner create man and woman upon earth, and gavest them an immortal soul. Thou didst say to them, increase and multiply: and didst direct them to the holy state of matrimony, that thereby the human race might be propagated. Thou, O Jesus, the Son of God, didst raise this common compact to the dignity of a holy sacrament in the new law—by the worthy reception of which in a state of grace, we receive sanctification and spiritual strength. We beseech thee, O Lord, to look down with an eye of mercy upon us thy children, and grant that our union may be happy and peaceful, and that under the guidance of thy grace, and of thy holy spirit, and always walking in the path which thou, O Jesus, hast pointed out to us, we may in all things follow this holy master. Assist me that I may be ever faithful to my partner, and never profane my holy engagement by any crime. Grant us peace, and may we carefully avoid all that

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might disturb it. Grant us strength and health to discharge the labours and duties of our state, give us prosperity in the occupations of our calling. May we enjoy thy holy assistance, to enable us to earn our daily bread without solicitude and painful poverty. And when thou fillest us with thy blessings, we will joyfully raise our hearts to thee, our bountiful Father in heaven; we will confess thy power, and praise thy love, which is never weary of doing good to us thy children. And, O almighty God, eternal and unsearchable!—if thou sendest us tribulations, grant us also courage and perseverance to bear them with patience and humility. Protect us in threatening dangers, and be thou our deliverer in every necessity. Grant, O Lord, that we may mutually fulfil the end of holy matrimony—and not be led away by sensual inclinations. In this let Tobias be our pattern and the model of our imitation. Bless, preserve and protect the children with whom thou hast blessed us. Yes, O bountiful God, we promise to bring them up for thee, and form them to become pious christians, that they may hereafter be co-heirs with Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Prayer for Women with Child.

A HUMAN being is within me—immortal—the image and likeness of my God!—O God of goodness! thou hast blessed me

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with it, it is thy gracious gift. What sacred feelings animate my heart at the thought of becoming a mother! O God, how chearfully will I fulfil the duties of a mother, united as they are with many difficulties, but with much sweet joy. Grant me courage, strength, and fortitude, when the decisive moment of delivery draws near — grant me all necessary help and care when it is arrived. Preserve, O God, the life of this fruit of my womb, that being cleansed from original sin by the holy sacrament of baptism, and washed in the blood of my divine Redeemer, it may partake of all the privileges of the children of God. *Amen.*

Prayer after a Happy Delivery.

O MY God! how can I find words to express to thee my thanks, my fervent and heart-felt gratitude, for the singular favour of my safe and happy delivery! the severe anguish I felt is now past; and thanks be to thee, O God, my child is alive and well, and a citizen of the world. O may it speedily become a coheir with Christ, by the reception of holy baptism. I will take this dear child in my arms and offer it to thee, O God:—I can find no words to pray to thee, I can only remain speechless and dissolved in tears. But, O bountiful Father! thou understandest well the language of tears, they are tears of the most

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heartfelt gratitude, joy and profound adoration. O Lord! give me grace to fulfil all the duties of a mother, with scrupulous exactness; let me have the holy dispositions of Sarah, Rebecca, and Rachel, in the old testament; and those of Mary, thy most blessed Mother, of Ann and Elizabeth, in the new. *Amen.*

Prayer for Widows and Orphans.

MY faith in thy wise and unspeakable providence is firmly established; thou hearest the cries of the widow and the orphan, and thou dost accept their prayers. O God of goodness! thou wilt never forsake me, a poor widow (or orphan)—thou wilt ever remain my father and kind provider. Thou 'art the father of us all. And as to the afflictions which thou hast appointed to befal me, O Lord, thou hast already—thou canst, and thou wilt change them into consolation. And if thou art still pleased that I should suffer, I shall derive firm and unshaken courage from looking up to thee. I am content—I will never repine at my lot—I will accomplish thy holy will with good courage, fidelity, and exactness; prudently separate myself from the world, avoid all folly and iniquity, and firmly fix my eyes on thee in want and affliction, in tribulation and distress. Thus will I meet the future, and thus will I live: then will the days of my life, and with them all their evils and

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sorrows, pass away like a dream. And when at length I recline to everlasting rest, then, O God! will I cry out to thee in death; Thou art the father of widows and orphans—hear me, grant me grace and mercy, and bring me out of this vale of sorrows and tears into the kingdom of grace, light and peace everlasting; where I hope to find again all those who were so dear to me in life—but alas! are now so soon snatched from my side by death. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Aged.

I AM now advanced in years:—when I look back upon my life which has so quickly flown away—I gratefully acknowledge that thou, O God, hast been from my cradle to this hour my beloved father and protector. Thou didst stand by me in all my ways, and didst give me my holy angel-guardian for my safety. O beloved Lord, often have I had cares and anxieties, but I have always found that as the morning follows the gloomy night, and light succeeds darkness, so comfort and animation have followed the bitter hours of life. If many times I have not known how to help myself—it was thou, O heavenly Father, who didst lead me out of the paths of darkness.—I gave myself up entirely to thy wisdom and operation, and diligently hearkened to the voice of my conscience, which is indeed thy

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voice—and I have ever found that thou dost graciously take charge of us. Thou hast said to me; "Even to thy old age I will carry thee, I will exalt thee and be thy deliverer." On this declaration I firmly build, and rejoice in it with my whole soul. Now that I am old and feeble, thou, dear Lord, art my staff and support; and this is the effect of thy infinite love for us thy children. And if I am weak and weary of life, when I turn to thee, I always find peace and consolation, for thou dost powerfully support me in my infirmity. How long have I yet to live? Thou knowest, O God of love!—be it entirely as thou willest, that is my only will and desire. I look forward to the moment, when thou shalt call me out of this life, with tranquility and joy, but not without filial fear on account of the sins I have committed in my life. When the hour of my death arrives, O grant, through the blood of Jesus, shed for me upon the cross, that it may be a happy hour for me. *Amen.*

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PRAYERS
IN
TIME OF SICKNESS.

Holy Conference of a Sick Person with God.

O GOD, the Father, Creator of the world! thou who dwellest for ever above, and reignest in the kingdom of bliss, let me now raise up my soul to thee, and affectionately pour out my heart before thee.

I wander as yet at a distance from thee in this mortal flesh, and have to struggle with the miseries of life. Sick, weak, and miserable, I lie here on this bed of sorrow, uncertain when the last hour shall come, and death shall take me out of this world.

This hour is known to thee alone, O omniscient God! But whenever it comes, let it be to me a happy hour. When my soul is separated from my body, do thou take my soul to thee, which thou hast created for thyself, and let my body rest in peace in the quiet grave till the great day of resurrection.

This is my wish and prayer to thee, O Father—may it be fulfilled. Pardon all the wickedness and sin which my weakness has

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committed against thee. Remember not the ignorances of my youth, forgive the offences of riper years; cover all the sins of my life with the veil of thy kind forbearance and mercy. I lay at thy feet, O Father, a contrite and penitent heart. Do not despise it, for the sake of thy Son Jesus, who died as a victim of propitiation for me upon the cross. I offer thee my sufferings, O my Father, united with the sufferings and death of Jesus; that being purified by these penitential sufferings, I may be well pleasing in thy holy sight. O what a consolation will it be for me, if I remain to the last breath of my life unchangeable in my sentiments of contrition, perseverant in patience, and firm in christian resignation to thy holy will! With pious confidence in thy fatherly goodness and mercy, my soul shall fly up to thee her Creator, when she is freed from the confinement of the body. She shall exchange earth for heaven, and the vale of tears for the place of sweet joys and endless felicity.

Then no afflictions will disturb my repose, no sickness, no pain will any more befal me, no temptations will allure me, no dangers will threaten my soul, and nothing will happen to give me uneasiness. I shall be with thee, my God; I shall see thee face to face, I shall rejoice with the angels in the clear contemplation of thee, I shall confess thy ways to be good and holy, which here below are dark

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and hidden from us, and also thy holy, unspeakable counsels, decrees and permissions, which to us mortals appear so often at variance with thy wisdom and love. I shall possess thee, my Father and my God!—love thee with the purest love, enjoy thee with the highest joy and transport, and these delights will never have an end. Thou givest to thy sheep everlasting life, and no one can take them out of thy hands. (*St. John, c.* x. *v.* 28.) A felicity awaits me, which is not only eternal in its duration, but moreover far surpassing in its nature every expectation and desire of the heart. No eye hath seen it—no ear hath heard it, and it hath not entered into the heart of any man, what things God hath prepared in heaven for those who love him. (1 *Cor. c.* ii. *v.* 9.)

O delightful heaven, O my good and true country and joyful felicity! why should I not patiently endure all things for thy sake? I can merit nothing better by my sufferings than the possession of thee. Therefore with God's grace I will strive to persevere and press forwards, that I may receive thy crown, which is laid up for me by the just judge. (*Tim. c.* iv. *v.* 7.)

But I will suffer much more for the love of thee, my Jesus, who hast suffered so much for me first. Yes, all that I have already suffered, all that I now suffer, and may have to suffer in future, shall all be endured for thy love, as it

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is thy holy will.—"I have given you an example that you may walk in my footsteps." (*St. John, c.* xiii. *v.* 15.—*St. Mark, c.* viii. *v.* 34.—1 *Pet. c.* ii. *v.* 21.)

I follow thy voice, O divine Saviour! I take up my cross and follow thee. It behoveth thee to suffer, and so to enter into thy glory. (*St. Luke,* xxiv.) Thy sufferings were longer and more grievous than mine, and thou didst bear them willingly, thou wert obedient unto death, even unto the death of the cross. (*Phil. c.* ii. *v.* 8.) Therefore thy Father hath given thee a name above every name, that before it every knee shall bow, in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. (*Phil. c.* ii. *v.* 8.) I follow thee, and hope after my sufferings to come to thee. Grant me, O Jesus, courage and strength to fulfil this christian resolution; strengthen my feeble patience, confirm my wavering resolves, and support my frail infirmity. Engraft me a feeble twig, closely in thee who art the true vine; that living and dying I may bring forth in thee the fruit of eternal life. Without thee I can only become faint, and yield; therefore I unite myself entirely with thee. O Jesus! I love thee; Jesus! I believe in thee; Jesus! I hope in thee; Jesus! I love thee; strengthen my faith, enliven my hope, enkindle my love; let not this sacred fire be extinguished within me, let my hopes be fulfilled, let my faith be unimpaired, my desires of thee unabated, and my con-

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stancy in sufferings and conflicts not weakened. O Jesus! to thee I resign myself without reserve—I will be thine—in life and death. Praised and blessed be thy most holy name, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Meditation for the Sick.

(Appropriate also for those in Health.)

"REMEMBER thy last end for there is no return." (*Ps.* lxxvii. v. 39.) This makes the thought so alarming; that when man by death is once gone out of the world, he comes back no more.

Thousands of people in towns and villages, in war and peace, aged, relatives, friends and acquaintances are dead—and no one of them has ever returned.

Ah! where are they? In the land of eternity! And what are they doing there? They enjoy the fruits of their good works in the possession of God, or the certain hope of possessing him; or they suffer the merited punishment of the sins which they committed, and which alas! they can no longer amend or expiate. See, my soul, what it is that makes it so terrible to die, and renders the thought of death so alarming.

Perhaps thou wilt soon be among the number of the dead—perhaps it will soon be said of thee, that on such a day, at such a time and hour, and of such a disorder, thou also didst

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die. And if they repeat this of thee for a whole year, thou wilt not hear it, thou wilt not come back to those who say it. For, my soul, thou wert not made for this world.

Farewell then thou transitory world! I have sought out for years, thy real nature, and I have found thou art a valley of tears, a place of sorrows, and an abode of great misery.

As a day-labourer stands at his labour in the burning heat of the sun, so do we mortals stand at the daily labour of our earthly occupations and cares, and await with christian sentiments the friendly evening of death, when the toilsome labour of our days will be at an end.

To me this evening is now fast approaching. The sun of my mortal life declines, he will soon set and totally disappear.

Be it so!—It is the will of the almighty Creator, the Lord of life and death. He gave me life, and it belongs to him. Let him call for it when he pleases. Not my will, but his be done, which is ever the wisest and best.

May this offering of affectionate resignation be well pleasing to him! Accept it O heavenly Father! accept it graciously and with a propitious countenance. I die for love of thee. I hope in thy infinite mercy. O Lamb of God! Jesus Christ! thou who reconcilest man with God, take away from me the guilt of my sins.

As Abraham offered his only son through

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obedience, so I offer myself to thee, O God! and my life in obedience to thy holy will.

Why should I tremble to bring my life this day as an offering to my God? I give it up now, that I may receive it again better, more beautiful and more happy from the hand of the almighty Creator. I can say, in all truth, with the apostle; Jesus is my life, and death my gain. (*Phil. c.* i. *v.* 21.)

He who died in pain and ignominy upon the cross, and gloriously rose again from the grave, he is the ground of my hope in an everlasting life, and in the wonderful resurrection of my body, which is now miserable, frail and full of sufferings. (1 *Cor. c.* xv. *v.* 12, 13, 14.)

His holy word has given me this consolation of life, and his resurrection has stamped his promise with the seal of truth, I die then, to begin a better life, and I cast off the mortal covering of the body, to be clothed at the great day of retribution in a robe of immortality. (2 *Cor. c.* v. *v.* 4.)

With thee, O suffering and dying Jesus! with thee is grace, peace, and sweet consolation.

Thy patience encourages me to endure in peace all kinds of sufferings. Thy resignation teaches me to accomplish the will of God assidiously to the end.

Thy courageous perseverance to the end strengthens my mind and courage, and prevents me from yielding.

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To thee, O divine Redeemer! I resign and commend by body and soul. Let all my thoughts, words and works be consecrated to thee. To thee I offer every pulsation of my heart; may all my sufferings be made over to thee, that thou mayest unite them with thine and make them meritorious.

I follow thee, O Jesus, with faith, firm hope and filial love; let me never be separated from thee, but ever be united with thee, with Mary, thy most blessed Mother, with all the holy saints, with thee most holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Prayer of a Sick Person about to receive the holy Sacrament of Extreme Unction.

HOW fervently do I thank thee, O my divine Saviour, for having permitted me to be born in the bosom of thy holy and saving Church, who like a truly affectionate mother, watches over her children from their birth to their death. By receiving the holy sacrament of Baptism, I became a new-born child of Christ, placed in thy arms, O Saviour of the world, and thus consecrated to thy holy love. By the holy sacrament of Confirmation I was anointed for the combat against infidelity and iniquity. In the sacrament of Penance, when I, unhappy creature, had offended my good God, by transgressing thy holy commandments, I was again reconciled to thee—

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and as one restored to thy favour, I was nourished and strengthened to a holy life with divine food in the holy Eucharist—and now the holy Church comes again to my assistance, sick and feeble as I am, to anoint me for the last combat.

O divine religion of my loving Jesus! thou didst come down from heaven to the earth, to sanctify us in life and death. Thy goodness, O Lord, is inexhaustible; thou vouchsafest me on my bed of sorrow the holy sacrament of Extreme Unction, by the worthy reception of which I shall be full of interior consolation, intimately united with thee, O Jesus! and anointed with heavenly courage for the last combat. How consoling is the salutation of the priest—peace be to this house, and to all who dwell herein! How earnestly does he pray for me in the name of thy holy Catholic Church.

O good Jesus! thou hast said by thy holy apostle James: "Is any one sick among you, "let him bring in the priests of the church "and let them pray over him, anointing him "with oil in the name of the Lord; and the "prayer of faith shall save the sick man, and "the Lord shall raise him up, and if he be in "sins, they shall be forgiven him."

I humbly beseech thee to strengthen and defend me by this holy sacrament against all the temptations of hell, forgive me my sins, and if it be for thy honour and my soul's good,

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restore me to bodily health. Look down, O God! upon me a poor sinful mortal, grievously oppressed by the pains of sickness.—Raise up my soul, for thou didst create it. May it derive great benefit from thy holy visit; destroy in me all the power of hell in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, by the imposition of the priest's hands, and the invocation of all the holy archangels, angels, patriarchs, prophets, martyrs, confessors, virgins, and all saints. Bless me, O Lord, by the hand of the priest; the blessing of God the Father, who created me, the blessing of God the Son, who died for me upon the cross, the blessing of God the Holy Ghost, who was infused into my soul in Baptism, preserve my body, sanctify my soul, enlighten my heart, regulate my mind, and bring me to everlasting life, through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayers for the Dead.

WE are all bound to love one another, and to pray for one another—this, O gracious God is thy holy will, which thou hast made known to us by thy beloved Son, our Lord and Saviour. Out of pure love we direct our prayers for the souls of the faithful departed; full of confidence, we pray for their everlasting rest. O Jesus! through thy pre-

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cious blood, shed for them upon the cross, may they obtain pardon of their sins. Take away all the infirmity of their past guilt. Be merciful to thy children who died in repentance. Spare them; have mercy on their sins, pardon and blot them out for ever, thou God of long suffering and mercy. Take them to thyself in the abodes of peace, rest and light everlasting. O God! prepare everlasting joys for my beloved parents, relations, benefactors, friends, and all for whom love and gratitude oblige me to pray, if they are still in a place of suffering. The consoling belief is firmly fixed in my soul, that with wisdom and goodness thou bringest all thy children to a happy end in eternity—for thou art their father. O ye faithful souls departed, I shall see you again! soon perhaps I shall have to exchange temporal things for those which are eternal; for as the flower blows and fades again, so does my life bloom and decay. Your bodies may moulder, but your souls are for ever immortal!—And you have received as a holy viaticum—the pledge of your eternal life—the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ in the holy sacrament of the altar;—you took with you the bread of heaven, of which whoever eats worthily shall not fear death for ever.

May my prayers to the heavenly Father, offered in humility of heart, bring you comfort and relief! I offer for you the sacrifice of the new law—I offer for you all the works

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of love, which thou, O God! wilt give me strength and grace to perform. O God, graciously hear my prayer for them, particularly for N. and N. O God, grant that I may meet them again in the enjoyment of thee, and rejoice with them in everlasting life. O glorious day! when wilt thou shine upon me, when together with my brethren departed I shall appear before thy holy throne, O God! and justified by the grace of Jesus Christ, in the brightness of everlasting light, bring to the Lamb glory, praise and adoration from eternity to eternity! *Amen.*

Here end the Prayers composed by the Rev. Prince Hohenlohe.

Prayer of Pope Pius VII.

Fiat laudatur atqua in æternum superexaltetur justissima, altissimi et amabilissima voluntas Dei in omnibus!

May the most just, the most high, and the most amiable will of God be done, praised and eternally exalted in all things.

His Holiness Pope Pius VII. by a rescript of the 14th April, 1820, was pleased to grant for ever those indulgences for reciting the above Prayer, which he had before granted for the term of twenty years, by a rescript of the 2nd of May, 1800, and which are as follows: An indulgence of 100 days for every time it is recited, and applicable to the living and the dead. A plenary indulgence every month for those who are in the habit of reciting it at least once every day; and a plenary indulgence at the hour of death.

As these valuable grants of his late Holiness are not generally known, the translator has presumed to annex them to this Prayer Book.

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APPENDIX.

A PIOUS DEVOTION
TO THE
SACRED HEART OF JESUS,
IN THE MOST ADORABLE
SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR,

Which may be performed on the feast of the most Sacred Heart, during the Novena, and the Octave following the feast, on every Friday throughout the year, and at any time according to each person's devotion.

Note.—The Novena of the Sacred Heart begins on the eve of Corpus Christi.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Come, O Holy Ghost, replenish the hearts of thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of thy divine love.

V. Send forth thy spirit, and they shall be created. R. And thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

O Lord God of infinite bounty and mercy, grant us, we beseech thee, the grace to be always directed and comforted by thy holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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Soliloquy of the Soul.

O my soul, enliven thy faith, and consider that in the most adorable sacrament of the altar Jesus Christ is really present, true God and true Man, with his sacred heart inflamed with most ardent love for thee. Recollect thyself, leaving aside all terrene and distracting thoughts and reflect that thou speakest to thy Jesus, thy most loving Lord, Brother, Saviour, and Spouse. Oh! how many seraphims stand around the altar, and with awful reverence adore him in the most holy eucharist. O my soul, unite with them, and with profound sentiments of a lively faith, firm confidence, ardent love, and humble homage, adore and bless thy God, and pray to the Lord of infinite bounty, who makes the bliss of Paradise, and whose most sweet heart is open to embrace thee, and to enrich thee with divine graces, of which he is the inexhaustible and eternal source.

Five devout prayers in honor of the most sacred Heart of Jesus.

1. I adore you, O Sacred Heart of Jesus, in the most august sacrament of the altar, where you shew the excess of your tender love. I thank your infinite goodness, by which you have instituted this divine sacrament, and have prepared for us a sacred banquet, where you give us for food your entire self. O most adorable heart of my Jesus, receive, I beseech

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you, my soul into your possession, inflame it with the fire of your divine love, and increase its ardour daily more and more unto the last moments of my life. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be to the Father.

2. I adore you, O Sacred Heart of Jesus, in the most august sacrament of the altar, where you continue to dwell, with an inflamed desire, that the hearts of men would unite themselves to yours, in order to be replenished with your divine graces. I heartily thank your incomprehensible charity, for having so often united yourself to my heart in the most holy sacrament, and I beg you will give me a proof of your most ardent love, by enriching it with all celestial gifts and blessings. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be to the Father.

3. I adore you, O Sacred Heart of Jesus, in the most august sacrament of the altar, where so many ungrateful men and incredulous persons do not adore you, nor acknowledge your real and divine presence. In reparation of the injuries they commit against you, I come filled with the most profound respect, to render you homage, and to protest with a lively faith that you are really present in the most holy sacrament, where I adore you with all the Catholic and faithful Christians; beseech you to enlighten so many wretched souls.

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are buried in the darkness of error, in order that they may also know the truth of this great sacrament.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be to the Father.

4. I adore you, O Sacred Heart of Jesus, in the most august sacrament of the altar, where you are so little loved and so often insulted by bad Christians, who offend you by so many irreverences and sacrilegious communions. In reparation of so base ingratitude I offer you the hearts of those devout and fervent souls, who with tenderness of love and respectful homage entertain themselves in the presence of the blessed sacrament, and with pure souls receive you in their fervent communions. In union with their oblation I offer you my poor but contrite heart, humbly begging that you will accept of it, and will imprint on it, and on the hearts of all your faithful, that love, respect and gratitude, which you expect from us all.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be to the Father.

5. I adore you, O Sacred Heart of Jesus, in the most august sacrament of the altar, where you remain so many hours, day and night, without any of your faithful going to visit you.—Accept, O divine heart, my fervent desires, that I would go to all the sacred temples throughout the Christian world, where you are

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present in the holy sacrament, in order to adore you, and to invite, by my humble example, the hearts of all men, that with frequent visits they would correspond to your love: but as I cannot effect this desire I adore you here in spirit, and wherever you are in the adorable sacrament offering up to you the adorations, homage and praises of the holy angels, who do not cease to pay their court to you around your holy tabernacles.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be to the Father.

Litany of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Lord have mercy on us. Christ have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

Christ Jesus hear us. Christ Jesus graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven,
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Ghost,
Holy Trinity,
HEART OF JESUS,
Heart of Jesus, formed of the Virgin Mary, by the operation of the Holy Ghost,
Heart of Jesus, hypostatically united to the eternal word,
Heart of Jesus, sanctuary of the divinity,
Heart of Jesus, tabernacle of the most sacred Trinity,
Heart of Jesus, temple of all sanctity,

} Have mercy on us.

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Heart of Jesus, fountain of all graces,
Heart of Jesus, abode of eternal charity,
Heart of Jesus, most meek and humble,
Heart of Jesus, most pure and chaste,
Heart of Jesus, most obedient & resigned,
Heart of Jesus, furnace of divine love,
Heart of Jesus, treasure of true wisdom,
Heart of Jesus, ocean of unfading beauty
Heart of Jesus, throne of bounteous mercy
Heart of Jesus, source and pattern of all virtues,
Heart of Jesus, fountain of waters, springing to life eternal,
Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation,
Heart of Jesus, the propitiation for our sins,
Heart of Jesus, sorrowful and agonizing in the garden,
Heart of Jesus, filled with bitterness, and replete with reproaches,
Heart of Jesus, wounded for our sins, and bruised for our iniquities,
Heart of Jesus, which sensibly felt the scourges and crown of thorns,
Heart of Jesus, made obedient even unto the death of the cross,
Heart of Jesus, pierced through with a lance,
Heart of Jesus, hope of the just and refuge of sinners,

Have mercy on us.

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Heart of Jesus, comfort of the afflicted and tempted,
Heart of Jesus, safe port of the agonizing and dying,
Heart of Jesus, salvation of the deceased,
Heart of Jesus, joy and delight of the saints,
Heart of Jesus, sanctification of our hearts,
} Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, spare us, O Jesus.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, hear us, O Jesus.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, O Jesus.

O most meek and humble heart of Jesus, render our hearts like thine. R. And with that divine fire which thou camest to kindle on earth, inflame all our hearts.

Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord Jesus, to be endowed with the merits, and inflamed with the love of thy most Sacred Heart; that we may deserve both to conform to the example of thy goodness, and to partake of thy redemption: Who livest and reignest world without end. R. Amen.

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A Devout Prayer to the most sacred Name of Jesus,

To be added to the Novena, and to be said at any time and frequently, in order to obtain our lawful requests, through the powerful mediation of this most adorable and all-saving Name.

O MERCIFUL Jesus! who didst in thy early infancy commence thy office of Saviour, by shedding thy precious blood, and assuming for us that name, which is above all names; we thank thee for such early proofs of thy infinite love. We venerate thy sacred name, in union with the profound respect of the angel, who first announced it to the earth, and unite our affections to the sentiments of tender devotion, which the adorable name of Jesus, has in all ages enkindled in the heart of thy saints.—Animated with a firm faith in thy unerring word, and penetrated with confidence in thy mercy, we now most humbly remind thee of the promise thou hast made, that when two or three should assemble in thy name, thou thyself wouldst be in the midst of them. Come, then, in the midst of us, most amiable Jesus! for it is in thy sacred name we are here assembled—come into our hearts, that thy holy spirit may pray in, and by us, and mercifully grant us through that adorable name, which is the joy of heaven, the terror of hell, the consolation of the afflicted, and the solid ground of our unlimited confidence, all our petitions. *(Here pause awhile, and reflect on our particular requests.)*

O blessed mother of our Redeemer! who didst participate so sensibly in the sufferings of thy dear Son, when he first shed his sacred blood and assumed for us the name of Jesus, obtain for us, through that adorable name, the favors we petition for in this Novena. Beg also, that the most ardent love may imprint on our hearts that sacred name, that it may be always in our minds and frequently on our lips, that it may be our defence in temptations, and our refuge in danger during our lives, and our consolation and support at the hour of death. Amen.

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